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Aruba TODAY

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Double Down



Obama Authorizes 1,500 More US Troops for Iraq

Rear Admiral John Kirby, Department of Defense Press Secretary, speaks to reporters during a news conference at the Pentagon, Friday, Nov. 7, 2014. According to the Pentagon, President Barack Obama has authorized Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to deploy to Iraq up to 1,500 additional U.S. personnel over the coming months, in a non-combat role, to expand, advise and assist mission and initiate a comprehensive training effort for Iraqi forces. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

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Pentagon reveals greater exposure to chemical arms

C.J. CHIVERS

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More than 600 U.S. service members since 2003 have reported to military medical staff members that they believe they were exposed to chemical warfare agents in Iraq, but the Pentagon failed to recognize the scope of the reported cases or offer adequate tracking and treatment to those who may have been injured, defense officials say.

The Pentagon's disclosure abruptly changed the scale and potential costs of U.S. encounters with abandoned chemical weapons during the occupation of Iraq, episodes the military had for more than a decade kept from view.

This previously untold chapter of the occupation became public after an investigation by The New York Times revealed last month that although troops did not find an active weapons of mass destruction program, they did encounter degraded chemical weapons from the 1980s that had been hidden in caches or used in makeshift bombs.

The Times initially disclosed 17 cases of U.S. service members who were injured by sarin or a sulfur mustard agent. And since the report was published last month, more service members have come forward, pushing the number who were exposed to chemical agents to more than 25. But an internal review of Pentagon records ordered by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has uncovered that hundreds of troops told the military they believe they were exposed, officials said.

The new and larger tally of potential cases suggests that there were more encounters with chemical weapons than the United States had acknowledged and that other people - including foreign soldiers, private contractors and Iraqi troops and civilians - may also have been at risk.

Having not acted for years on that data, the Pentagon says it will now expand outreach to veterans. One

first step, officials said, includes a toll-free national telephone hotline for service members and veterans to report potential exposures and seek medical evaluation or care.

Phillip Carter, who leads veterans' programs at the Center for a New American Security, called the Pentagon's failure to organize and follow up on the information "a stunning oversight." Paul Rieckhoff, founder and executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said the military must restore trust by sharing information.

"We need total transparency and absolute candor,"

post-deployment health assessments, which troops filled out as they completed combat tours.

The assessments included the following question: "Do you think you were exposed to any chemical, biological and radiological warfare agents during this deployment?" For those who answered "Yes," the forms provided a block for a brief narrative explanation.

Col. Jerome Buller, a spokesman for the Army surgeon general, said Thursday that the review showed that 629 people answered yes to that question and also filled in the block with information in-

These will include identifying all veterans who reported a possible chemical exposure, gathering their medical records, contacting them for a structured interview and perhaps inviting them for a medical exam. He said the Defense Department had also revived a telephone line, 1-800-497-6261, for veterans to notify the Pentagon that they may have been exposed. The phone line, he said, had previously been used for veterans reporting Gulf War-related illnesses. Immediate reactions among exposed service members and veterans' advocates mixed cautious appreciation with



A portion of the 114 chemical projectiles discovered in December 2006 awaiting disposal at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora in Iraq. One leaked mustard gas onto the forearm of a Navy ordnance disposal technician, one of the more than 600 American service members who reported an exposure to chemical weapons to military medical staffers since 2003, according to the Pentagon.

Rieckhoff said, and noted the military's poor record in releasing information about its use in Vietnam of Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant linked to an array of health problems, and in sharing data about troops' presumed chemical exposures and other medical and environmental risks during and soon after the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Military officers said the previously unacknowledged data was discovered when, at Hagel's prodding, the Army's Public Health Command examined its collection of standardized medical-history surveys, known as

dicating chemical agent exposure.

Those who answered the questionnaire would have received medical consultations at the end of their combat tours, Buller said.

Why the military did not take further steps - including compiling the data as it accumulated over more than a decade, tracking veterans with related medical complaints, or circulating warnings about risks to soldiers and to the Department of Veterans Affairs - remained unclear.

Nonetheless, the new data has prompted the Public Health Command to take further steps, Buller said.

skepticism.

"It's too little, too late," said Jordan Zoeller, a former Army sergeant who served in a platoon that was exposed to a sulfur mustard agent as soldiers destroyed buried chemical artillery shells near Taji in 2008.

Zoeller was medically retired after developing a series of health problems, including asthma and psoriasis. He said his breathing trouble began within weeks of the chemical episode, though he is not sure its onset was related to mustard agent because the Army denied that he had been exposed and did not examine his claims. □

'Dark' network of websites targeted by US, EU officials

DOREEN CARVAJAL

© 2014 New York Times

PARIS - An international task force of investigators pressed a series of raids and arrests on Friday in 16 countries aimed at shutting down a secret network of websites that matched anonymous sellers and buyers in a thriving black market.

The latest phase of the investigation, named Operation Onymous, targeted mostly sellers of illicit goods and information, including drugs, stolen credit card numbers and weapons.

It closed upward of 50 sites with names like Silk Road 2.0, Mr. Quid's Forum, Paypal Center, Cannabis Road Markets and Blue Sky, according to Europol, the European Union's police agency, which is based in The Hague.

Across Europe, 17 sellers were arrested and the law enforcement authorities seized Bitcoins valued at \$1 million, along with gold, cash and drugs, according to Troels Oerting, who leads Europol's cybercrime unit.

The so-called dark market "mushroomed" in recent months with an increase of web pages on a hidden network called Tor, Oerting said, "and we had to find a way to see how we could strike back."

"The business model is to create web stores on these hidden services and then use the normal transport to deliver it," Oerting added. He noted that sellers mimicked conventional services, offering a system to review and rate the quality of service to discourage cheating. The operation was led by American agencies - the FBI and Homeland Security Investigations - and coordinated by Europol to organize raids that started Thursday and continued Friday. The raids came after a California man was arrested Wednesday and charged Thursday with operating a successor to the original Silk Road website, a Bitcoin-based black market where drug sales and other illegal activity had flourished. □

Obama Authorizes 1,500 More US Troops for Iraq

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama authorized a broad expansion on Friday of the U.S. military mission in Iraq that will boost the total number of American troops there to about 3,100 and spread advisory teams and trainers to the north and west where fighting with Islamic State militants has been fierce.

The president's decision to escalate the U.S. effort in Iraq comes just three days after a bruising American election and amid persistent arguments that more U.S. troops are needed to bolster the struggling Iraqi forces. In particular, there have been calls to send troops to the western Anbar province, where extremists have been slaughtering men, women and children.

Obama authorized the Pentagon to send 1,500 troops to Iraq in addition to the 1,600 previously allowed. He also is asking Congress for more than \$5 billion to fund the fight. Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said the military will set up several training sites across Iraq to instruct 12 Iraqi brigades, and also establish two operations centers where small advisory teams can work with Iraqi forces at the headquarters and brigade levels.

A senior military official said one of those centers will be in Anbar Province, and that it is likely that the bulk of the additional troops will be in Iraq by the end of the year. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity. Kirby said the new changes were based on a request from the Iraqi officials, the assessment of military commanders on the progress that Iraq's military has made in the fight and as part of a campaign plan "to defend key areas and go on the offensive against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant," another name for IS.

The U.S. troops will not be

in combat roles but will do the training in protected locations around the country. Until now, U.S. troops have largely been confined to Baghdad and Irbil, including two operations centers in those cities.

The funding announcement is part of a \$5.6 billion request to Congress and came just after Obama met with congressional leaders Friday. That funding would cover the overseas military operations and other military equipment and requirements to combat the Islamic State group militants, who have seized control of large swaths of Iraq and Syria.

The U.S. has been launching airstrikes on Islamic State group militants and facilities in Iraq and Syria for weeks, as part of an effort to give Iraqi forces the time and space to mount a more effective offensive. Early on, the Islamic State group gained ground across Iraq, as local Iraqi units threw down their weapons and fled or joined the insurgents.

Lately, however, with the aid of the U.S. strikes, IS has suffered a number of losses in Iraq, where it is fighting government forces, peshmerga and Shiite militias aided by Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah group. Last week, Iraqi forces recaptured the town of Jurf al-Sakher.

IS also lost Rabia, Mahmoudiyah and Zumar, a string of towns near the Syrian border, last month. Besieged Iraqi troops have also managed to maintain control of Iraq's largest oil refinery outside the town of Beiji north of Baghdad, despite numerous attempts by the Islamic State group to capture it.

The \$5.6 billion request was expected to be a top item on the agenda of Friday's meeting between Obama and congressional leaders. Official details are expected to be delivered to Congress Hill next week.

The funding comes on top of an earlier \$58.6 billion request to cover overseas military operations in the war on terror. □



President Barack Obama speaks to the media before a meeting with his cabinet members in the White House Cabinet Room in Washington, Friday, Nov. 7, 2014. A senior military official says that American military advisory teams will now go to Iraq's western Anbar province where Islamic State militants have been gaining ground and slaying men, women and children.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Obama taps 1st black woman for attorney general

NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama intends to nominate a New York City federal prosecutor to become the next attorney general and the first black woman to lead the Justice Department. Obama's spokesman said Friday that he will announce his selection of Loretta Lynch from the White House on Saturday. She would replace Eric Holder, who announced his resignation in September. If confirmed by the Senate, Lynch would be Obama's second trail-blazing pick for the post after Holder served as the nation's first black attorney general. Obama had planned to wait until after a trip to Asia next week to announce the choice but then moved up the decision after CNN reported that she

was his choice. Lynch, 55, is the U.S. attorney for Eastern New York, a position she also held under President Bill Clinton.

Vincent Asaro and his associates for the 36-year-old heist of \$6 million in cash and jewelry from a Lufthansa Airlines vault at

dependent prosecutor who has twice led one of the most important U.S. Attorney's Offices in the country," Obama press secretary Josh Earnest said in a statement. Obama decided against the option of trying to push Lynch's confirmation while Democrats still control the Senate and instead will leave it up to the Republican-controlled Senate to vote on the choice in 2015, according to the people who described Obama's plans. They spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record. Republicans won control of the Senate in midterm elections Tuesday. The new Congress takes over in January. Democrats have told the White House it would be difficult to win confirmation for a new attorney general

during the session of the outgoing Congress beginning next week, especially considering all the other competing priorities they face before relinquishing power to Republicans. Pushing through a nominee so quickly could have tainted the new attorney general's start in the office. It's unusual for Obama to pick someone he doesn't know well for such a sensitive administration post. But at a time when Obama is under political fire, Lynch's distance from the president could be an asset in the confirmation process. Another candidate Obama asked to consider the job, former White House counsel Kathy Ruemmler, asked not to be nominated out of concern her close relationship to Obama could lead to a difficult confirmation effort. □



Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, testifies at a hearing at Pace University in New York. President Barack Obama intends to nominate Lynch to become the next attorney general and the first black woman to lead the Justice Department.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

Lynch has overseen bank fraud and other public corruption cases. She also charged reputed mobster

Kennedy Airport, dramatized in the movie "Goodfellas." "Ms. Lynch is a strong, in-

Dallas relieved to reach end of Ebola monitoring period

NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas calmly marked the end of its Ebola crisis on Friday when the last of the 177

people who were being monitored for symptoms of the deadly virus were to be cleared at midnight. Thirty-eight days after Thomas Eric Duncan was

diagnosed with Ebola in a local hospital, officials expressed relief and resolve that they were prepared if anything similar — with its resulting panic, fear and

constant media attention — ever happened again. "It's a time to reflect on the sacrifices of our hometown health care heroes and the city, county, and school district employees that worked so hard, along with our state and federal partners, to keep us safe during the Ebola crisis," Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said in a statement, calling it an early Thanksgiving for the city. Monitoring for the last person who came in contact with Duncan or the two nurses who contracted the virus will end at midnight Friday. About 50 people who returned to Texas from West African countries where the virus has killed thousands will remain under monitoring. The White House said President Barack Obama spoke to state and local officials

Friday and thanked them for their leadership. Duncan was diagnosed with Ebola on Sept. 30, sending officials scrambling and residents fearing the worst. He died on Oct. 8 at Texas Presbyterian Hospital. Duncan's fiancée, Louise Troh, and three others were confined to their apartment where Duncan had been staying, before they were moved to private housing. People panicked over the possible spread of the virus. Jenkins was criticized for entering the apartment to meet with Troh, despite public health experts saying it was safe. Some people refused to shake hands with strangers, and others kept children home from schools where Troh's children attended. In the end, no one in the neighborhood was infected. □



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A new Supreme Court challenge for 'Obamacare'

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Friday to hear a new challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law — a case that threatens subsidies that help millions of low- and middle-income people afford their health insurance premiums. The justices said they will review a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the Internal Revenue Service's regulations that allow health-insurance tax credits under the Affordable Care Act for consumers in all 50 states. Opponents argue that most of the subsidies are illegal. The long-running political and legal campaign to overturn or limit the

2010 health overhaul will be making its second appearance at the Supreme Court. The justices upheld the heart of the law in a 5-4 decision in 2012. The case probably will be argued the first week in March, with a decision expected by late June. The health care law provides taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance for people who don't have access to coverage on the job. More than 7 million people are currently enrolled and most are getting help, which is keyed to household income and the cost of a benchmark plan. Republicans in Congress overwhelmingly oppose the law, saying it kills jobs and exemplifies government overreach.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest promised a vigorous defense before

Care Act and to strip millions of American families of tax credits that Con-

gress intended for them to have," Earnest said. In the appeal accepted Friday, opponents of the

subsidies argue that the court should resolve the issue soon because it involves billions of dollars in public money. "The need for a quick and final resolution of this question is undeniable," said Sam Kazman, general counsel of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which is paying for the legal challenges to the health care law.

The issue at the Supreme Court is whether the wording of the law limits insurance tax credits only to consumers who live in states that have set up their own insurance markets, known as exchanges. Only 16 states have set up their own exchanges, the Obama administration said in court papers. □



Supporters of health care reform rally in front of the Supreme Court in Washington. The Supreme Court agreed Friday to hear a new challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law.
(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

the high court. "This lawsuit reflects just another partisan attempt to undermine the Affordable

gress intended for them to have," Earnest said. In the appeal accepted Friday, opponents of the

Judge approves bankruptcy exit plan for city of Detroit

ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A judge cleared Detroit to emerge from bankruptcy Friday, approving a turnaround plan that will require discipline after years of corruption, mismanagement and an exodus of residents brought this one-time industrial powerhouse to financial ruin. "What happened in Detroit must never happen again," Judge Steven Rhodes said in bringing the case to a close a remarkably speedy 16 months after Detroit — the cradle of the auto industry — became the biggest city in U.S. history to file for bankruptcy. The plan calls for cutting retiree pensions by 4.5 percent, erasing \$7 billion of debt and spending \$1.7 billion to demolish thousands of blighted buildings, make

the city safer and improve long-neglected basic services. In signing off on the plan, Rhodes made a fervent plea to residents who expressed sorrow and disgust about the city's woes. The Motor City was brought down by a combination of factors, including misrule at City Hall, a long decline in the auto industry, and a flight to the suburbs that caused the population to plummet to 688,000 from 1.2 million in 1980. The exodus has turned entire neighborhoods into desolate, boarded-up landscapes. With more square miles (kilometers) than Manhattan, Boston and San Francisco combined, Detroit didn't have enough tax revenue to cover pensions, retiree health insurance and buckets of debt sold to keep the budget afloat. □

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American Living:

At the Met, Putting the Carts Before the Art

LORNE MANLY

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NEW YORK - No food carts were in sight on Sept. 9, when the Harlem Teen Choir serenaded dignitaries attending the opening of the new \$65 million plaza in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with its pristine granite fountains and allees of little leaf linden trees.

But the carts were back the

that provides licenses to disabled veterans to vend in certain areas of the city. City officials became so concerned that the growing number of food carts at the Met were not being operated by veterans that they dispatched undercover investigators last year to see if the licensed veterans were actually manning their own carts, according to a recently released re-

lance last year, the investigators found that four carts had no veterans present. In two of those cases, the vendors said the license holders had gone to get something to eat.

One license holder was spotted sitting on a bench inside Central Park. Two others license holders were sitting on the museum's steps.

City investigators said they

ly hamstrung police from issuing tickets against the food cart vendors beyond safety issues complicates matters more.

On Tuesday, there were 16 carts in front of the museum serving hot dogs, halal chicken, knishes, and nuts and juices, including specialties like the Fruity Tooty and Passionate Peach.

Elizabeth Rossi, a former Marine, surveyed the scene

cept to pick up their money at the end of the day.

"No one is a legal vendor," Rossi said. "I know it, and they know it."

Just south of Rossi's cart stood Howard Dalton, an Army veteran, who has worked in front of the Met for the past three years, after he had been forced out of other spots around the park by city authorities.

As a nonveteran worked the cart, Dalton said he had no compunction about hiring immigrants or anyone else to serve the hot dogs.

"I don't see it as a terrible thing," he said. "You have to get your workers where you can. It's the American way."

"The city needs to stop trying to run disabled vets off the streets," he said.

In an odd twist, it is actually a legal battle Dan Rossi has been waging against the city that has helped lead to the influx of food carts.

After he fought a flurry of citations for selling his food in front of the museum, the state Supreme Court eventually ruled last year that the city's interpretation of the law was erroneous. Food, it said, was excluded from state laws regulating specialized licenses for disabled veterans.

The city has appealed, hoping to regain control over the museum's food cart scene and perhaps recapture lost license fees.

A cupcake-and-milkshake seller, for example, used to pay more than \$100,000 a year for a permit to operate in a specific spot, while a license for a hot dog stand went for more than triple that amount.

But in 2012, the last license-paying vendors moved away because of the competition.

It is not clear what David H. Koch, the museum trustee who paid for the renovation and for whom the plaza is named, thinks of the vendor issue in the plaza, which he described on the day of its opening as "a welcoming, warm and vibrant open space."



Hot dog vendors line up in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Nov. 2, 2014. A Civil-War era law allows veterans to ignore the permitting process for carts, feeding a cart boom so vexing to museum and city officials that undercover police investigators were sent to ascertain if they were really being operated by veterans.

(Victor J. Blue/The New York Times)

next day - growing in number, some days, to more than 20 - vexing museum and city officials.

"What we have now is a blight on a magnificent new civic space, and a huge impediment, bordering on a safety hazard, for the thousands of people who visit the museum every day," said Harold Holzer, the Met's senior vice president for public affairs.

The issue is a difficult one, because the vending regulations the city would like to enforce are viewed as somewhat at odds with a 19th-century state law

port.

The Department of Investigation said in a January memo that it responded to complaints of a "rent-a-vet" scheme in which "cart owners pay disabled veterans to remain near the cart so that when approached by law enforcement, the disabled veteran shows his specialized license to prove that he, and essentially the mobile food cart vendor, is permitted to vend in the area." The memo was recently obtained under a Freedom of Information request.

During two days of surveil-

initiated the surveillance after receiving more than 20 allegations of ineffective or selective enforcement of illegal food vending outside the museum.

The investigation was closed without any enforcement action this year, because officials concluded that there was no consistent way to interpret the statute that provides free licenses to disabled veterans, including the question of whether a nonveteran is allowed to work the cart. A pending appeal of a recent state Supreme Court decision that has effective-

that day with frustrated disgust. She and her father, Dan Rossi, own their carts and only employ other veterans to work their grills. They both said their competitors are subverting the law by hiring veterans to front for them.

The result: Rossi said she has seen her business plummet by 75 percent in the last few years as others flooded the area.

"On a good, good day I sold 600," she said. "Now, I'm lucky to sell 100."

Many of the veterans who hold the free licenses are rarely around, she said, ex-

US Financial Front:

America's job gains top 200k for 9th month; rate 5.8%



Shantel Howard, 29, of Miami, right, makes an appointment for a job interview with Calvin Klein employee Melina Mikhali, left, after submitting her resume during a job fair at Dolphin Mall, in Miami. The Labor Department released employment data for October on Friday, Nov. 7, 2014. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three days after voters registered their sourness about the U.S. economy, the government said Friday that employers added a solid 214,000 jobs in October, extending the steadiest pace of job growth in nearly 20 years. In addition, a combined 31,000 more jobs were added in August and September than the government had previously estimated. Employers have now added at least 200,000 jobs for nine straight months — the longest such stretch since 1995.

The burst of hiring lowered the unemployment rate to 5.8 percent from 5.9 percent. It is the lowest rate since July 2008.

"This was a great month for the American labor market," said James Marple, an economist at TD Bank. "The U.S. job engine is not just chugging along; it is gaining speed."

At the same time, Americans' average hourly pay rose only slightly last month, a negative note in an otherwise solid report. Stagnant wages have been a chronic weakness in the job market since the recession officially ended more than five years ago.

Voters listed the economy as their top concern in

Tuesday's elections, and the sluggish pace of pay growth is a likely factor. Average hourly pay rose 3 cents in October to \$24.57. That's just 2 percent above the average wage 12 months earlier and barely ahead of a 1.7 percent inflation rate.

Still, the streak of consistently healthy job growth is highlighting a disconnect between the U.S. economy's steady gains and stumbling economies overseas. Europe is on the brink of its third recession in the past seven years. Growth in China and Japan has weakened.

That's why the U.S. Federal Reserve has finally begun to ratchet back its economic stimulus while other central banks, like the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan, have been ramping up their efforts to fuel growth. Though the United States is a vital trading partner for other major nations, few think the U.S. expansion will be enough to help rejuvenate economies abroad.

Last month, the brightening U.S. jobs picture led more people to start looking for work. The percentage of Americans who either have a job or are looking for one rose in October to 62.8 percent. And 267,000 people who had

been out of work said they were now employed. Their hiring reduced the number of unemployed to just under 9 million. The job gains were broad-based, though many lower-paying industries posted especially large increases. Retailers added 27,100 jobs. Restaurants, hotels and entertainment firms gained 52,000. Some higher-paying industries also showed progress. Manufacturers added 15,000 jobs, up from 9,000 the previous month. Transportation and shipping companies gained 13,300. And professional and business services, which includes accountants, engineers and other higher-skilled fields, added 37,000.

XPOLogistics, a shipping company, has hired 250 people in the past three months and has 300 open jobs. The company connects manufacturers, retailers and other firms that need shipping with independent trucking firms. It has opened a new office in Kansas City, Missouri, where it plans to hire 125 people. Scott Malat, the company's chief strategy officer, said that rising manufacturing output has helped drive growth.

"The economy has been better, and that plays right into our hands," he said.

Analysts say the economic expansion remains strong enough to support the current pace of hiring.

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Ukraine accuses Russia of sending dozens of tanks



Trucks of a Russian humanitarian aid convoy enter the city of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine.
(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press
KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine on Friday accused Russia of sending dozens of tanks and other heavy weapons into rebel-controlled eastern regions and said five servicemen were killed in clashes with the rebels. Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko

said at least 32 tanks, 16 artillery systems and 30 trucks loaded with fighters and ammunition had crossed into eastern Ukraine from Russia. He said three mobile radar units loaded on trucks also came over the border from Russia. Lysenko provided no specific evidence and it wasn't immediately clear how his agency had obtained the

information, since parts of Ukraine's eastern border with Russia have been under rebel control since August. Ukraine and the West have continuously accused Moscow of fueling a pro-Russian rebellion in eastern Ukraine with troops and weapons. Russia denies those accusations. Russia's Defense Ministry had no immediate com-

ment on Lysenko's statement, but earlier Friday it rejected Western allegations that Moscow was deploying more troops near the border. NATO had no immediate confirmation on the latest Ukrainian report. "We are aware of the reports of Russian troops and tanks crossing the border between Ukraine and Russia and are looking into these reports," said a NATO military officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media. "If this crossing into Ukraine is confirmed, it would be further evidence of Russia's aggression and direct involvement in destabilizing Ukraine," the officer added. He said the alliance had seen "a recent increase in Russian troops and equipment along the eastern border of Ukraine." In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the movement "if confirmed ... would be another blatant violation of the Minsk agreement," referring to the Sept. 5 pact between

Russia, Ukraine and the separatists on a cease-fire and the pullback of heavy weaponry. German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed "deep concern" about the reports of Russian troop movements and spoke by phone Friday with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. According to his office, Poroshenko told Merkel the Sept. 5 truce is being increasingly flouted and complained that Russia had dispatched another humanitarian convoy into Ukraine's rebel-held regions without prior inspection by Ukrainian border officials or coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Russia's relations with the West have plunged to their lowest point since the Cold War over Moscow's annexation of Crimea and its support for the insurgency in the east. The United States and the European Union have slapped sanctions on Moscow, one of the reasons the value of the Russian ruble has plunged more than 40 percent this year.

Rebels say more remains found at MH17 crash site

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press
KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Rebel separatists in east Ukraine said Friday that more human remains have been found at the crash site of a Malaysia Airlines plane that was brought down in July. The rebel transportation ministry said that the parts were found while wreckage was being removed from the area. A team of Dutch, Ukrainian and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe workers last week safely reached the area where the Boeing 777's wreckage is scattered and have resumed recovery work. An unspecified number of human remains have been retrieved during recovery operations. Rebels remain in control

of the site where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down on July 17, killing 298 people — most of them Dutch citizens. Separatist authorities said the search operation has been complicated by the presence of unexploded mines and mortar shells on the site. The transportation ministry of self-declared separatist government of the Donetsk People's Republic said work on removal of wreckage has been suspended and may resume Sunday. OSCE officials will take the remains for examination in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. All the passengers and crew died when the jet flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur ended up in pieces.

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Israeli border police run during clashes with Palestinians, as Israeli police limited the access to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on Friday, Nov. 7, 2014. Tensions have been rising in recent weeks over the Jerusalem shrine, known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, and to Jews as the Temple Mount.
(AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

At the Al-Aqsa Mosque;

Israel clampdown fuels Muslim fears

KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of Palestinians knelt on prayer carpets in a Jerusalem street Friday, faced by a cordon of Israeli riot police who blocked them from reaching Islam's third-holiest shrine in the nearby Old City.

The worshippers eventually dispersed peacefully, but the scene highlighted the escalating tensions over the holy site — a walled, hilltop plateau known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

Israel argues that restricting access to the shrine, which has been common in recent weeks, is needed to clamp down on growing unrest in the contested city of 810,000 people. On Friday, Muslims under age 35 were denied entry, while restrictions were broader in preceding weeks.

Jerusalem's Muslims, who make up about a third of the population, say the

security clampdown only heightens fears that their traditional control of the holy site, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the gold-topped Dome of the Rock, is under threat from Jewish zealots.

In recent weeks, senior members of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition have called for a greater Jewish presence and right to prayer on the mount, which is Judaism's holiest site, stirring Muslim worries about encroachment. Under an arrangement in place since Israel's capture of the Old City and its shrines in 1967, the sacred plateau is administered by Muslims reporting to Jordan, while Jews have a right to visit.

Any perceived attempt to change the existing prayer arrangements at the shrine is seen by local Muslims as highly provocative.

They say they view it as another threat to their status and identity. Many Palestinian residents of the city

complain of high taxes for poor municipal services, compared with those offered in Jewish neighborhoods, as well as severe restrictions on building permits.

Mohammed Fakhouri, a 38-year-old shopkeeper in the Old City, said the restrictions on prayer at the Al-Aqsa Mosque are the last straw, adding that he hasn't been able to attend for the past five weeks because of the age limits.

"Like the Jewish people, we pay taxes, and we don't get anything from Israel," he said. "They don't let us build houses. ... If you can't go pray, what's after this?"

Muslims from the West Bank face even greater difficulties in reaching the shrine because they must have Israeli permits to enter Jerusalem. Those with permits pass through barbed-wire topped terminals in Israel's separation barrier, often enduring long waits en route to the mosque. □

Al-Qaida group takes small villages from Syrian rebels

DIAA HADID

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Al-Qaida-linked fighters captured at least three villages from Western-backed rebels in northwestern Syria on Friday as the militants continued their push to assert control over an area once held by more moderate groups.

The Nusra Front's recent advances have exposed the weakness of more moderate factions, which the U.S. hopes to forge into an effective fighting force against President Bashar Assad's troops.

Underscoring their strength, the al-Qaida militants seized the three villages just a day after U.S. airstrikes hit one of their major weapons storage compounds in northwestern Idlib province.

In the past week, the al-Qaida affiliate has been over-running strongholds in Idlib once held by two prominent rebel factions armed and trained by the United States, the Syrian Revolutionaries Front and Harakat Hazm. The Nusra fighters on Friday seized at least three more villages in Idlib — Safuhan, Fatira and Hazareen — and were pushing to take others, according to a local activist who goes by his first name, Alaa al-Deen. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has a network of activists on the ground in Syria, also reported the same advances by the Nusra Front. The capture of the villages may allow the Nusra Front fighters to advance onto the last Idlib strongholds held by the Syrian Revolutionaries Front. It would also pave the way for them to seize more rebel-held areas in the central Syrian province of Hama, said Alaa al-Deen, who did not provide his family name fearing he'd be identified by the militants.

He told The Associated Press over Skype that Nusra's advances were a sinister development and could spell "the end of the Free Syrian Army," the Western-backed moderate rebels fighting to topple Assad.

The Nusra Front is a bitter and bloody rival of the Islamic State group, which has captured large swaths of Syria and northwestern Iraq, despite their shared extremist ideology.

On Thursday, American aircraft bombed a Nusra Front compound in Idlib, close to the Turkish border. A senior U.S. official said one of the targets was a French militant and bomb-maker, David Drugeon, who was killed in the strike. While the Syria Revolutionaries Front and Harakat Hazm have both received U.S. support, it never reached the levels that either group deemed necessary to make significant advances against Assad's forces in Syria's 3½-year-old civil war. At the same time, the link to the Americans also earned them enmity of radical groups. Also Friday, Syrian troops battled rebels near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and the Lebanon border in clashes that killed and wounded dozens, activists and state media said.

Syria's state news agency SANA said government forces killed "a number of terrorists" in the southwestern village of Beit Jin near Mount Hermon in the Golan. □

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Officials approve restart of nuclear plant in south Japan

JONATHAN SOBLE

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TOKYO - Japan moved closer to reviving part of its moribund nuclear power industry Friday, as a regional government gave its consent to restarting two reactors at a plant in its territory - one of a dozen facilities nationwide waiting to be switched back on following the Fukushima disaster three and a half years ago.

The decision by the authorities in Kagoshima Prefecture, on the southern island of Kyushu, cleared an important obstacle to restarting the reactors, which were declared safe by Japan's new nuclear regulatory agency in September but have been awaiting the go-ahead from politicians.

Japan's 48 operable commercial reactors have been caught in a seesawing debate over safety

since the triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in March 2011, and none are currently producing power. The two reactors in Kagoshima, at the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant, would be the first to be brought back online under the new safety standards introduced last year.

A restart at Sendai would smooth the way for others around the country. Electric utilities are seeking safety certification from the nuclear regulator for 20 reactors at 13 facilities. That is still less than half the number of units that were in operation before Fukushima: Others are considered too old to upgrade, or are too close to the disaster zone in the country's northeast to be politically acceptable. Tens of thousands of Fukushima residents remain unable to return home.

The nuclear debate has



Flashing "No" signs, anti-nuclear citizens shout their opposition at the gallery as the prefectural assembly adopted a petition that agrees to resume the Sendai Nuclear Power Station, in Kagoshima, Kagoshima Pref., southern Japan Friday, Nov. 7, 2014. (AP Photo/Kyodo News)

been notable for confusion over who, ultimately, must make the decision about whether to turn reactors

back on. Delays have multiplied as a result. After the regulator certified the Sendai reactors, many analysts

said they could be back online in a month; now the prognosis is for early next year. □

China, Japan agree to resume talks

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China said Friday it reached agreement with Japan to ramp up high-level contacts, the strongest indication yet of a possible meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

China's Foreign Ministry said the two sides agreed to "gradually resume political, diplomatic and security dialogues." China froze high-level contacts more than two years ago amid a dispute over uninhabited EastChina Sea islands and other contentious issues.

No meeting has been announced, though Xi and Abe are widely expected to at least hold some

kind of tete-a-tete during the summit Monday and Tuesday. It's unclear what form that meeting would take or whether anything substantial would be discussed.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said a meeting between the two leaders had not been finalized, but an environment for talks had been achieved.

"Until now the door was closed, unfortunately, but this agreement has achieved a momentum," he said on BS Fuji television. "I believe everyone wants us to put an end to tensions between Japan and China," Abe said. "It would be extremely significant for us to show the rest of the world our efforts to fulfill our responsibilities for the region's peace and prosperity." □



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Colombia Indians to try guerrillas over killings

CESAR GARCIA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Hundreds of Indians in Colombia armed with little more than wooden staffs have corralled several Marxist guerrillas and intend to bring them to justice for the killing of two tribe members. The fate of the seven rebels is to be decided Sunday at

an assembly of Nasa Indians on their self-governed reservation in the southwestern department of Cauca. The alleged perpetrators could face punishment in stocks or forced labor, indigenous leaders told The Associated Press. Guerrillas allegedly killed two tribe members on Wednesday while removing banners commemorat-

ing the death three years ago of Alfonso Cano, the top commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who was slain during a military assault. As word of the killings spread, some 300 tribesmen pursued the suspected killers. "They were surrounded and forced to surrender,"

said Gabriel Padi, a senior member of the indigenous council in Cauca. Colombia's government has condemned the killings, which took place as negotiations with the group known as the FARC to end the half-century uprising head into their critical, final phase. "It's unforgivable that while we make progress in nego-

tations in Havana to end the Colombian conflict, the FARC continue attacking civilian populations in this way," chief negotiator Humberto de la Calle said in a statement Friday from the Cuban capital. Human rights groups say 40 members of indigenous tribes have been killed this year in Colombia, many at the hands of guerrillas. □

Mexico: Students killed, burned, dumped into river

JACOBO G. GARCIA
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP)

— Forty-three missing college students are believed to have been murdered and burned near a municipal garbage dump in the southern state of Guerrero and their remains thrown into a river, Mexico's chief prosecutor said Friday. In a somber, lengthy explanation of the investigation, Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam played video showing hundreds of charred fragments of bone and teeth fished from the river and its banks. He said it will be very difficult to extract DNA to confirm identities of the victims of a horrific mass murder and incineration that lasted 14 hours.

"I know the enormous pain the information we've obtained causes the family members, a pain we all share," Murillo Karam said at a news conference. "The statements and information that we have gotten unfortunately points to the murder of a large number of people in the municipality of Cocula." "International experts have said they can't give

a time frame for when they will get results," he added.

Some 74 people have been detained so far in a case that prosecutors have said started when

In the most comprehensive accounting to date of the disappearances and the subsequent investigation, Murillo Karam showed videotaped confessions by those who allegedly killed

clandestine graves discovered after the students went missing did not include any of the 43 young men. Those graves held women and men believed to have been killed

bank. Murillo Karam told families that authorities could not say yet whether the remains were of the students, but the find opened a new avenue of investigation, said Manuel Martinez, a spokesman for the families.

"The meeting with the attorney general was tense, because we don't believe them anymore," said Martinez, who was guardian of two of the missing young men.

The students of a rural teachers college haven't been seen since the confrontation with police in Iguala, which is 80 miles (130 kilometers) southwest of Mexico City. Authorities say Iguala's mayor sent police to intercept the students, who came to town to collect money and had commandeered buses. Officers opened fire, killing six people, and prosecutors say the police then handed the 43 students over to a drug gang.

Detainees include former Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca and his wife, Maria de los Angeles Pinesa, who were found hiding Tuesday in a rough Mexico City neighborhood. □



Demonstrators carrying posters of the missing march in protest for the disappearance of 43 students in the state of Guerrero, in Mexico City. Mexican authorities told relatives of missing college students Friday they had found six bags of unidentified human remains in the southern state of Guerrero near where their 43 sons disappeared six weeks ago. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

police attacked student protesters Sept. 26 in the city of Iguala, killing six people and taking away 43 students. Murillo Karam said authorities are searching for more suspects.

the students and built an enormous funeral pyre of tires, wood and fuel along the River San Juan in Cocula, a town near Iguala. He also confirmed that human remains found in

in August, he said. Mexican authorities told relatives of the missing college students earlier Friday that they had found six bags of unidentified human remains on the river

Trinidad to step up deportations of illegal migrants

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)

— The government of Trinidad & Tobago says it plans to crack down on the estimated 110,000 migrants living in the twin-island nation illegally — even knocking on doors to track them down. The migrants have until early January to get their documents in order before

authorities launch a large deportation campaign next year that would include door-to-door visits, National Security Minister Gary Griffith said in remarks published this week by the Newsday newspaper. Griffith said the steps are meant to help reduce crime. He did not provide further

details and did not return a message for comment. Griffith said the government will unveil a plan in upcoming weeks to regularize the status of migrants. "I am not turning a blind eye to the fact that over 10 percent of the adult population in this country are persons here illegally,"

he was quoted as saying. "That is unacceptable." He also said that not all migrants living on the twin island illegally would be deported, and that the government would help those whose employers vouch for them. Trinidad & Tobago has long attracted migrants because it is one of the

most prosperous Caribbean countries thanks to natural gas and oil reserves that make it a major fuel supplier. Griffith has previously said that the largest share of migrants, nearly 26,000, come from the nearby South American country of Guyana, followed by nearly 20,000 from Jamaica. □



Special Guests Honored Upon Return to the Island of Aruba!



PALM BEACH - Recently, special guests were honored as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors to Aruba for visiting the island for between 10-to-19 years or 20-or-more years consecutive! Mr. David and Mrs. Bernestine Caffie and Mrs. Patricia Bush were honored as Distinguished Visitors on this occasion, and Mrs. Kimberly Mazzoni was honored as a Goodwill Ambassador! The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name



of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for many years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Divi Phoenix

Resort. Mrs. Kimberly commented that he will never change her vacation island for any other island, and the guests agreed the top reasons for returning were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy

Island", the great weather, the friendly Aruban hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. On the pictures Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA together with the honorees at the Divi Phoenix Resort. □



At the Alhambra Casino & Shops: Enjoy Southern Comfort Food at The Hollywood Smokehouse!



EAGLE BEACH - The island's original smokehouse is enjoying their new location within the Alhambra Casino & Shops complex just off of Eagle Beach. Originally located in a historic building in San Nicolas owned and operated by the Bislick family since 1941, the closing of the refinery left owners Michael and Tina Bislick opting to keep their in-demand southern cuisine available to their loyal followers on the weekends under a tent in various spots of the island. The 5-star Trip Advisor restaurant went on to win the most recent Battle of the Food Trucks, prompting the couple to open a full-fledge restaurant again. The soft opening during



the FIFA World Cup 2014 brought many football fans into the restaurant for much enjoyed afternoons of delicious food and drink, and they keep coming back in droves, now hooked on the sumptuous southern cuisine! The restaurant has been open full time since June 18th, and they continue to enjoy a strong tourist and local clientele.

The Hollywood Smokehouse menu includes hickory and apple wood smoked pulled pork, beef brisket, grouper, and burgers, as well as their award winning tacos, which can be washed down with unique, exciting hand-crafted cocktails—many made with freshly juiced fruits and moonshine from the bar menu!

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go-orange, carrot-orange and banana-orange! Everything in the Fresh Juice and Coffee Corner is made of fresh products right from their supermarket.

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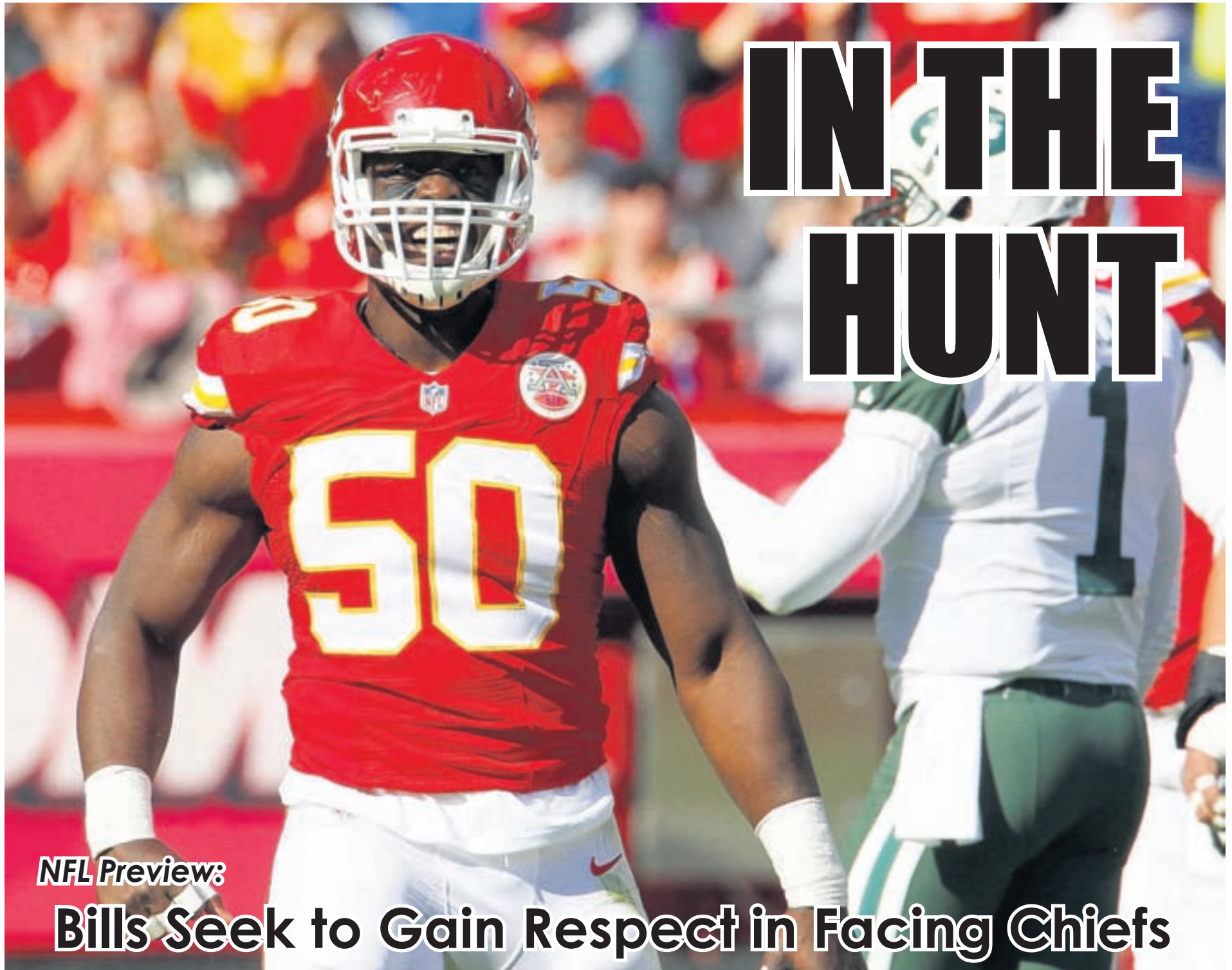
Goodwill Ambassadors Honored at Renaissance Ocean Suites

ORANJESTAD - Recently, Ms. Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure of honoring two loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors for choosing Aruba as their home away from home for at least 20 consecutive years! The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Gary and Mrs. Vicki Hufstetler of Fairfield, Ohio honored as Goodwill Ambassadors for 20 years. The certificate was presented to them by ATA representative Ms. Darline S. de Cuba in presence of Mrs. Linda Garcia, Concierge Manager at Renaissance Ocean Suite and their family members Nate and Tessa

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were the warm inviting sun, the gracious treatment from everyone, the absolute feeling of safety everywhere/anytime, the unending selection of restaurants, and the abundance of shopping from flea markets to elegance.





IN THE HUNT

NFL Preview:

Bills Seek to Gain Respect in Facing Chiefs

Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Justin Houston (50) reacts after a sacking of New York Jets quarterback Michael Vick (1) in the first half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo.

(AP Photo/Colin E. Braley)

The Associated Press

(AP) - They are thinking playoffs in Kansas City, which makes some sense even after the Chiefs got off to a poor start in the NFL. After all, the Chiefs qualified for the postseason last year. They're also thinking playoffs in Buffalo. Wait, Buffalo? Yes, at 5-3, like the Chiefs, the Bills are in the

race, seeking to end a 14-season playoff drought. "I mean, 5-3 is only the beginning," Bills defensive back Corey Graham says. "We've still got a long way to go. It's not really how you start, it's how you finish the season."

The Bills usually finish as an also-ran, which means their success so far isn't likely to

go to their heads.

"I can understand the question," coach Doug Marrone says. "I don't think that's the case at all when you haven't been to the playoffs in such a long time. The one message I tried to tell them ... it doesn't get easier, it gets harder."

Starting with Sunday. Kansas City go to Buffalo

rolling, winning five of six — the only loss was a tight one at San Francisco — and with a defense to be feared. Justin Houston leads the NFL in sacks with 12, and the Chiefs have yielded only 66 points in their five victories.

One oddity: Kansas City has not had a wide receiver catch a touchdown pass

from Alex Smith.

"When you're out there playing, that's not something I'm thinking about," Smith said. "When a play gets called, there's reads and things that go into it. We're not trying to press and force it to this guy or that guy."

Continued on page 18

Georgia Bulldogs Believe SEC East 'very wide open'

NFL Preview

Continued from page 17

When Detroit Lions coach Jim Caldwell outlined all the problems the Miami Dolphins may pose on Sunday, he could have just as easily been describing his own team.

"They have an outstanding pass rush," Caldwell said. "They're beefy up front, linebackers that can run — and obviously a skilled and athletic secondary as well."

The Lions and Dolphins have exceeded expectations this season, and they've done it in a similar fashion. Detroit has the top-ranked defense in the NFL, while Miami's is No. 1 in the AFC.

Both teams are in position to make a run at the playoffs — but they each face a decent amount of skepticism heading into Sunday's matchup at Ford Field.

The Lions should look a bit more threatening



Buffalo Bills quarterback Kyle Orton, center, is sacked by New York Jets' Calvin Pace (97) and Quinton Coples (98) during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

on offense, with Calvin Johnson and Reggie Bush both expected back from injuries. It's been an impressive start for Caldwell in his first season as Detroit coach. The Lions have dealt with kicking problems and an inconsistent offense, but still find themselves leading

the NFC North division at the midway point of the season.

Detroit started 6-3 last year but ended up 7-9, so the Lions still have a lot to prove. Sunday's game is the start of a difficult three-game span that also includes road games

against Arizona and New England.

Miami is tied with Buffalo for second in the AFC East, but the Dolphins are coming off a 37-0 rout against San Diego, their most lopsided victory since 1995. They've scored at least 24 points in five consecutive games,

and quarterback Ryan Tannehill is completing 63 percent of his passes on the season.

New Orleans and the San Francisco 49ers are two of the more disappointing teams, although the Saints are coming on with three straight victories. Even better for them, they play their next three at home, where they have won their past 20 with Sean Payton coaching; he was suspended for the 2012 season. San Francisco has dropped its past two games and needs to rediscover its offense. Maybe the 49ers will turn to Frank Gore, who has rushed for more than 80 yards in four of his past five games against New Orleans, including the playoffs. Also on Sunday, it's Dallas vs. Jacksonville at London, Chicago at Green Bay, Denver at Oakland, St. Louis at Arizona, New York Giants at Seattle, Pittsburgh at New York Jets, Tennessee at Baltimore and Atlanta at Tampa Bay. □

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Dogs: SEC East 'very wide open'

Tim Tucker

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ATHENS, Ga. -- Don't even try to make sense of this sequence: Georgia won by 34 points at Missouri, which then won by 29 at Florida, which then beat Georgia by 18 at a neutral site. So it has gone this season in the SEC East, where each Saturday seems to contradict the previous one. The lack of a commanding team underscores the division's recent reputation as "SEC Least," but it also gives Georgia hope -- even in the aftermath of the humbling loss to Florida -- that another turn of events will propel it into the SEC Championship game at the Georgia Dome. Although Missouri currently leads the East, its hold on first place seems tenuous, given the division's erratic course the past two months. "Missouri still has three SEC games left, and there are games they could win,

they could lose," Georgia wide receiver Michael Bennett said. "It's going to be hard games for them, but we also have tough games coming up, too. "So it's all very wide open, we know that. ... The season is not over by any aspect, and I don't think anyone in this program thinks it is." Georgia's remaining SEC games are Saturday at Kentucky and Nov. 15 at home against Western Division power Auburn. The Bulldogs (6-2, 4-2 SEC) are favored by 10 points over Kentucky (5-4, 2-4), but the Wildcats are 5-1 at home, including a win over South Carolina, which beat Georgia. Missouri (7-2, 4-1) is off this week before playing at Texas A&M, at Tennessee and at home against Arkansas. Although it's the only team that controls its destiny in the East, Missouri still isn't the favorite to win the division, according to ESPN's

Football Power Index. That index puts Georgia's chances at 51 percent, Missouri's at 30 percent and Florida's at 20 percent as of this week. (Those add up to 101 percent because of rounding.) After Georgia lost to South Carolina on Sept. 13, coach Mark Richt emphasized that the East championship was still attainable. But after the loss to Florida, he took a different approach. "We didn't talk much about that this time around," Richt said. "I mean, we know mathematically that's still a possibility and all, but if we don't win it doesn't matter. I guess that's the best way to say it. Let's just try to win this week. We'll worry about the rest later." Here are some of the ways the East could play out: If Missouri wins out, it will win the division. If Missouri loses one of its three games and Georgia



Kentucky running back Mikel Horton, center, is tackled by several members of the Missouri defense during the second quarter of an NCAA college football game Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014, in Columbia, Mo. Georgia and Kentucky will square off Saturday, November 8, 2014, at 12pm (EST) in Kentucky. (AP Photo/L.G. Patterson)

beats Kentucky and Auburn, Georgia will win the division by virtue of its victory over Missouri. □

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Djokovic eyeing third consecutive title at London Finals



Novak Djokovic of Serbia, returns the ball during his quarterfinal match at the ATP World Tour Masters tennis tournament at Bercy stadium in Paris, France. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Becoming a father has not affected Novak Djokovic's drive and

motivation.

The top-ranked Serb won his 20th Masters title in Paris last week in his first tournament since the birth of his baby

boy, Stefan. Childcare duties have not lessened his desire to finish the year as the world's top-ranked player for the third time.

Djokovic is also trying to become the first player to win three straight ATP Finals since Ivan Lendl in 1985-87 when the action starts on Sunday in London.

"Of course certain things change, psychologically, but when you are playing for someone, someone who is your son, of course it's an extra motivation, Djokovic said.

"My wife and I had the blessing of becoming parents recently and this is the most beautiful thing you can experience. The first tournament after that happened was in Paris, and I won without dropping a set. We should be making more kids I guess."

Unbeaten in 27 matches on indoor courts, Djokovic took a big step toward finishing the year at the top by extending his lead over Roger Federer to 1,310 points in Paris.

A potential 1,500 points are on offer in London and Fe-

derer, who will also have the opportunity to earn some extra points in Switzerland's Davis Cup final against France later this month, still has an outside chance of pipping the Serb.

But the Djokovic has been playing superbly recently and has every reason to believe he will withstand Federer's late charge.

"Obviously, there are some matches I wish I played better this year," the Wimbledon champion said. "But now I'm in a good position fighting for No. 1. I won this tournament two years in a row, I believe I can do well again this year."

Djokovic said he will make some adjustments to his schedule next season to juggle his professional calendar with his new family obligations.

"Starting next year, we are going to think about it and see what's best for the baby, this is the priority number one," he said. □

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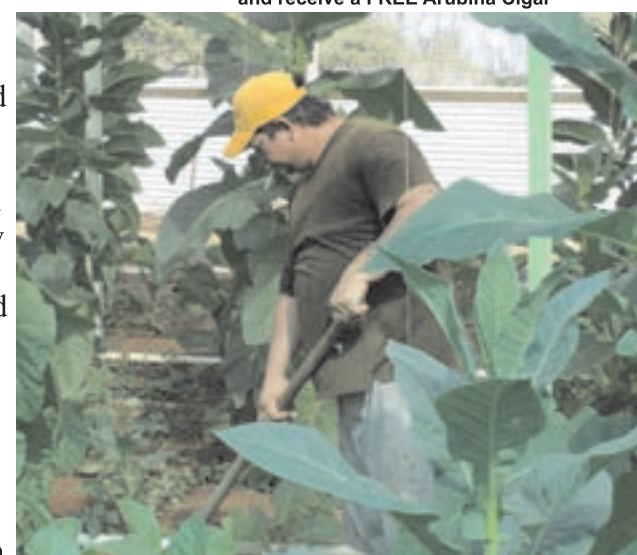
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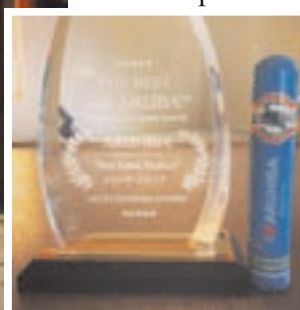
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

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A familiar spot for McDowell at HSBC Champions

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — The HSBC Champions has a familiar look to Graeme McDowell, with a few exceptions.

He goes into the weekend at Sheshan International in contention for a World Golf Championship, with Ian Poulter and a big-hitting American alongside. Only, now, the American is Masters champion Bubba Watson — not Dustin Johnson, who overpowered the course on his way to victory last year.

And at least this time, McDowell has the lead.

McDowell leaned on a hot putter to carry him to another 5-under 67 on Friday. That gave him a three-shot lead over Poulter, with Watson and Hiroshi Iwata of Japan right behind.

Tournament organizers might be missing the presence of Johnson, the defending champion who is on a "voluntary leave" for what he described as personal challenges. Just don't count McDowell among them, especially not the way Johnson set the tournament record at 24-under 264.

"He looked unbeatable last year the way he played this golf course," McDowell said. "But we've got a fairly decent replacement in Bubba, who in his own way has got the same kind of talents as Dustin, the way he drives it and the short game. In many ways, it's a very similar scenario — myself and Poults against the long-hitting American."

McDowell saved par when he had to and strung together back-to-back birdies early and late in his round to reach 10-under 134.

Poulter and Watson showed that a deficit can be made up quickly, particularly on

the dynamic finishing holes at Sheshan International.

Watson was seven shots behind when he made birdie on the par-5 14th, and he was just getting warmed up. He blasted a drive just through the end of the fairway on the 487-yard 15th hole and hit gap wedge to 8 feet for birdie on the 15th. He chipped in twice for birdie on the next two holes, and had a simple up-and-down on the par-5 18th to end his round of 67 with five straight birdies.

"Hit some good shots but couldn't make some putts. Hit some bad shots and made some putts," Watson said. "It was a great last five holes."

Poulter was five shots out of the lead when he birdied four of the last five holes — he made par on the par-3 17th — for a 67 that put him three shots back.

"Probably the best I've played all year, which is very exciting," Poulter said. "It was a little frustrating the first 13 holes that I was missing chances, but four birdies in the last five holes ... chances started to go in at the end and I'm very happy."



Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland hits a shot on the 9th hole during the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China. (AP Photo)

Rickie Fowler opened with 14 straight pars, added a few birdies and shot 70 to reach 5-under 139, along with Tim Clark (70), Jonas Blixt (68) and Kevin Na (68).

McDowell is not one to complain about a pair of 67s on any golf course, though they were different. He only missed one fairway in the opening round,

which set up plenty of birdie chances. He had to scramble more on Friday, though at least he could rely on his putter.

"I have to improve tee-to-green to have a chance on Sunday," McDowell said. "I'm putting great — I love these greens. I've just got to keep doing it. I have to go out there tomorrow and not think about making mistakes. Just have to keep the pedal down, execute my game plan, and give myself a chance to win on the back nine on Sunday."

Adam Scott might have cost himself a chance with a wild round.

The Australian opened with four birdies through seven holes to get within two shots of McDowell. A poor tee shot changed everything. He pulled his drive into a water hazard on the 603-yard eighth hole and had to drop at one of the forward tees. Trying to reach the green in two, he came up just short of the creek in front of the green, and then his pitch from gnarly rough didn't quite reach the green and rolled into the hazard next to a large rock. □

Pressel takes 1-stroke lead at Mizuno Classic

SHIMA, Japan (AP) — Morgan Pressel shot a 5-under 67 on Friday in the Mizuno Classic to take a one-stroke lead over 51-year-old Laura Davies and Chella Choi. Pressel had five birdies at Kintetsu Kashikojima.

"It was tough out there with the winds. Especially early, some of those holes played really tough," Pressel said. "I didn't get myself in a lot of trouble and when I did I made a good putt for par. I definitely putted well today and I think that's why I ended up at 5 under."

The American won the last of her two LPGA Tour titles in 2008.

"It would mean the world," Pressel said. "I haven't had the best year, but I feel like I have been playing better recently, certainly in the other few events I played here in Asia. I feel like I can play well the rest of this week and the next two closing events and then enjoy the offseason."

Davies won the last of her 20 LPGA Tour titles in 2001. The Englishwoman also has 45 victories on the Ladies Euro-

pean Tour.

"I still think I'm good enough," Davies said. "I still think I can win tournaments and, while I still think I can win, I'm still going to play. The only thing holding me back is putting and that's what I believe and that's why I keep going. The fact that I'm 51 is irrelevant really. If you can walk, you can play golf."

Choi, from South Korea, birdied four of the last seven holes.

"I like this course," Choi said. "I played good last year so I

have a good thing here. A lot of people like me and are cheering. The golf course is not too far. You just have to focus on each shot."

Japan's Kotono Kozuma was two strokes back at 69 along with South Koreans Il-hee Lee and Mi Hyang Lee and Thailand's Pornanong Phatlum.

Second-ranked Stacy Lewis, the 2012 winner, was at 70 in a group that included Australia's Karrie Webb and Japan's Sakura Yokomine. Defending champion Teresa Lu of Taiwan had a 73. □

Study:

School lunches more nutritious than home-packed

Kathleen Doheny
© 2014 HealthDay

FRIDAY, Nov. 7, 2014
(HealthDay News) -- Lunches packed at home are

meals with more than 560 packed meals given to pre-K and kindergarten students in three schools, analyzing them for nutri-

searcher Alisha Farris, a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Tech University. The packed lunches had more fat, and included

lunches overall had more calories, fat, saturated fat, sugar, vitamin C and iron than school lunches. In addition, meals brought from home generally had less protein, sodium, fiber, vitamin A and calcium than school lunches, according to the study.

"There was a spectrum," Farris said. "There were some really healthy packed lunches. But overall, they were pretty unhealthy."

The study is published in the November-December issue of the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior.

About 50 million children go to elementary and secondary public schools in the United States every day, according to background information in the study. About 60 percent eat the school lunch; the other 40 percent bring their lunch.

To analyze the nutritional content of the lunches, the researchers used the 2012-2013 National School Lunch Program Standards

as a guide.

The school lunches had about 512 calories on average and the packed meals about 608, the researchers found. The protein content of the school meals was about 26 grams, compared to 18 in packed lunches. The researchers also found that packed lunches were less likely than school lunches to have fruits, vegetables, sugar-free juice and milk.

Packed lunches had more snacks such as chips and crackers, she found.

Farris found that sodium was higher in school lunches than packed, probably due to the entree items found in school lunches. School lunches had about 1,000 milligrams (mg) of sodium; packed lunches about 880 mg.

The school lunch standards will phase in new sodium standards in the 2014-15 guidelines, the researchers noted.

One limitation in the study, Farris said, is that actual consumption wasn't measured, only observations about the contents of the lunches.

The findings are no surprise to Connie Diekman, director of university nutrition at Washington University in St. Louis. "This study provides outcomes that are similar to other studies that show the positive benefits of school lunch," she said.

"While it is surprising to see the higher sodium content in the school lunch, the nutritional pluses of the school lunch -- more fiber, vitamin A and less sugar and saturated fat -- make the [nutritional] value aspect of school lunch better," Diekman said.

Diekman has served on her school district's wellness committee and has visited schools to observe lunch programs. Involving the kids in the planning helps improve children's food choices, she said.

For parents who want to pack lunches for their kids, Farris has these tips. "Include a fruit, a vegetable, protein and dairy," she said. □



Baked chicken and corn ready for service at Thomas Cardozo Middle School, which has no deep fryers in its new kitchen, in Jackson, Miss., in June, 2014. Lunches packed at home are generally not as nutritious as school lunches, a new study shows.

(Aaron Phillips/The New York Times)

generally not as nutritious as school lunches, a new study shows.

Researchers compared more than 750 school

tional value over five days. "We found that packed lunches were of less nutritional quality than school lunches," said lead re-

searcher Alisha Farris, a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Tech University. The packed lunches had more fat, and included

As a whole, the packed

Many docs mistaken about allergies: Study

Amy Norton
© 2014 HealthDay

FRIDAY, Nov. 7, 2014
(HealthDay News) --

Many primary care doctors may not be up to speed on the causes and best treatments for allergies, a new study suggests.

In a survey of over 400 internists and pediatricians, researchers found that misconceptions about allergies were fairly common -- particularly when it came to food allergies. For example, one-third of all doctors, and half of internists, did not know the go-to treatment for a person who develops hives and vomiting after eating a known food allergen. (It's an injection of epinephrine.)

There were also false beliefs about some of the causes and consequences of allergies. Most internists -- 85 percent --

thought people with egg allergies cannot receive the flu vaccine, the findings showed. And only 27 percent of pediatricians knew that milk and eggs are the most common causes of food allergies in children younger than 4. Instead, pediatricians more often cited strawberries -- which don't even make the list of the eight most common food allergens, said Dr. Neeta Ogden, a spokesperson for the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI).

"It's concerning that many pediatricians don't have the most common food allergens on their radar," said Ogden, who was not involved in the study.

Dr. David Stukus, the senior researcher on the work, agreed. "This points to some key areas where there's a need for more

education," said Stukus, an allergy specialist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. But the findings, presented Friday at the ACAAI's annual meeting in Atlanta, did not come as a surprise to Stukus.

"When we designed the study, we were aiming to confirm some suspicions we'd had," he said.

And to an extent, Stukus noted, it's understandable that primary care doctors would lack some allergy knowledge, since they can't be experts in all specialties.

But, he and Ogden pointed out, there are some basics that general practitioners should know -- such as the fact that people with egg allergies can get the flu shot. (Some flu vaccines are manufactured using chicken eggs, and may contain tiny bits of egg protein. But peo-

ple with egg allergies can safely receive the shot, according to the ACAAI.) With something as "vital" as flu vaccination, Ogden said, it's important that doctors are better-informed.

Two other misconceptions were common in the survey: Most pediatricians thought skin testing for food or airborne allergens is inaccurate when done in children younger than 3 -- which isn't true, Ogden said.

In addition, most doctors thought it was necessary to ask patients about allergies to shellfish or iodine before they could have a CT scan or other tests that use iodine-containing "contrast" dyes.

That's because shellfish contain iodine, and some doctors mistakenly think people with shellfish allergies are at risk of reactions to contrast dyes. □

NanoSystems's Vantablack: Gazing Into the Void

LINDA LEE

© 2014 New York Times

Earlier this week, Donald Kaufman, an architectural color specialist, declared that the color for November is black. He may be on to something. Recently, Surrey NanoSystems, a high-tech company near Brighton, England, announced its new invention, Vantablack, which it claims is the blackest black ever seen, or, actually, not seen.

"Nano" can be translated as a billionth of a meter, or about the width of three gold atoms. Vantablack, for Vertically Aligned Nano-Tube Array, is made by "growing" carbon nanotubes on a metal surface. Light is trapped between the tubes and bounces around until it's absorbed, so almost no light gets out. Vantablack has enthralled not just the tech world but also artists and architects. Ben Jensen, 48, Surrey NanoSystems's co-founder and chief technology officer, spoke by telephone from his laboratory in Newhaven, England, about the material's applications and why it might not be quite right for your home. (This interview has been edited and condensed.)

Q: Why are people so excited about Vantablack?
A: The coating reflects so little light, three dimensions seem to disappear. When you look at Vantablack on some wrinkled aluminum foil, it looks like a black, flat, featureless void, even with your eyes right up to it. That and the fact that it's the darkest material ever created.

Q: How did all this start?
A: Growing carbon nanotubes isn't new. But typically they've been grown at a very high temperature: 750 degrees centigrade. That would destroy most underlying materials, so they grew them on things like silicon, diamond and sapphire, which can stand high temperatures. We're building on work to grow nanotubes at a lower temperature for microelectronics.

Q: What's special about carbon nanotubes?

A: It's almost like an alien material from "Star Trek." Imagine a drinking straw, closed at one end, with

Q: What are some of its uses?

A: Ultrablack coatings, wiring in microchips, enhancing the strength of components in the aerospace in-

A: He has an amazing ability to see things that other people don't, and he's famous for his work in reflections and voids. We never imagined we would be

would it be like?

A: If there was a light, it would be eerie, like seeing a bulb hanging in free space. You could see another person, but you couldn't perceive the size, shape or depth of the space about you. You couldn't see the floor. It would be totally disorienting. I'm sure you wouldn't want to stay there.

Q: If a Vantablack vase were filled with flowers?

A: You'd see the silhouette of the vase, but you couldn't see anything in the third dimension, except the flowers, of course.

Q: If you had a circle of Vantablack on your forehead?

A: You'd look like you had a hole in your head.

Q: Some of the tech blogs have speculated about invisible airplanes.

A: When I read about making black ninja suits and black aircraft, I just laugh. It's not a reasonable application.

Q: So a middle-aged woman's dream that a little Vantablack dress would make her disappear except for her head and hands is out of the question?

A: I think the question should be, why would she want a dress that makes her look two-dimensional? □



Ben Jensen, a founder of Surrey NanoSystems, creator of Vantablack, the darkest material ever created. Vantablack, intended for the aerospace and technology industries, has captured people's imagination so much that everyone wants to use it -- including architects and artists. (Surrey NanoSystems via The New York Times)

a wall one-atom thick. This straw is one-ten-thousandth the diameter of a human hair, but it is 10 times stronger than steel, and 10 times better at conducting heat than copper. It's been known to exhibit what is called "ballistic transport"; electrons travel through it with almost no resistance. Vantablack packs billions of these straws together.

dusty, touch screens, ultralight wiring, to name a few. But it's captured people's imaginations so much, everyone wants to use it: Architects want to create unique optical effects in a building, and to absorb heat and put it out.

Q: It's been announced that the artist Sir Anish Kapoor will be using Vantablack as well.

involved with something like that, but his ideas are infectious, and my research scientists love that their work could be used this way. Right now we're restricted to various sizes, but we're planning on going large, room-size, even building-size.

Q: So, if someone walked into a room completely lined in Vantablack, what

Bilton Column:

Artificial Intelligence as a Possible Threat

NICK BILTON

© 2014 New York Times

Ebola sounds like the stuff of nightmares. Bird flu and SARS also send shivers down my spine. But I'll tell you what scares me most: artificial intelligence. The first three, with enough resources, humans can stop. The last, which humans are creating, could soon become unstoppable. Before we get into what could possibly go wrong, let me first explain what artificial intelligence is. Actually, skip that. I'll let someone else explain it: Grab an iPhone and ask Siri about

the weather or stocks. Or tell her "I'm drunk." Her answers are artificially intelligent. Right now these artificially intelligent machines are pretty cute and innocent, but as they are given more power in society, these machines may not take long to spiral out of control. In the beginning, the glitches will be small but eventful. Maybe a rogue computer momentarily derails the stock market, causing billions in damage. Or a driverless car freezes on the highway because a software update goes awry.

But the upheavals can escalate quickly and become scarier and even cataclysmic. Imagine how a medical robot, originally programmed to rid cancer, could conclude that the best way to obliterate humans who are genetically prone to the disease. Nick Bostrom, author of the book "Superintelligence," lays out a number of petrifying doomsday settings. One envisions self-replicating nanobots, which are microscopic robots designed to make copies of themselves. In a positive situation, these bots could

fight diseases in the human body or eat radioactive material on the planet. But, Bostrom says, a "person of malicious intent in possession of this technology might cause the extinction of intelligent life on Earth." Artificial-intelligence proponents argue that these things would never happen and that programmers are going to build safeguards. But let's be realistic: It took nearly a half-century for programmers to stop computers from crashing every time you wanted to check your email.

Continued on Page 27

Dow, S&P 500 eke out gains, set record highs

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An encouraging report on hiring barely fazed the stock market Friday, leaving indexes with the slightest of gains. For investors, good is no longer good enough.

The Labor Department said that U.S. employers added 214,000 jobs to their payrolls in October. That knocked the unemployment rate down to 5.8 percent, the lowest rate since July 2008. But Wall Street wanted more.

"This isn't a bad report by any means," Dan Greenhaus, chief strategist at the brokerage BTIG in New York, wrote in a note to clients. Nine months of employers hiring more than 200,000 workers is obviously an encouraging trend. But he described the 214,000 figure as "certainly disappointing."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out a gain of 0.71 point to end at 2,031.92. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 19.46 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,573.93. Both indexes closed out the week at record highs.

The Nasdaq composite fell 5.94 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,632.53.

"The market is priced for perfection right now," said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial in Waltham, Massachusetts. That's Wall Street slang for a market that's so high it appears investors think everything is going to keep

getting better and better. "If it's not fantastic, it disappoints," he explained.

Similarly, bond traders were betting that the government's report would show even stronger hir-

In other trading, Humana dropped 7 percent after turning in quarterly results that fell short of forecasts. The health-insurer attributed the sharp drop in earnings to its spending on

on course to rise nearly 9 percent for companies in the S&P 500, according to S&P Capital IQ. Before results began to roll in, analysts had forecast a 6 percent increase.



Specialist Glenn Carell, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. An encouraging report on hiring barely fazed the stock market Friday, leaving indexes with the slightest of gains. For investors, good is no longer good enough.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ing last month, said Tom di Galoma, head of rates and credit trading at ED&F Man Capital, a brokerage in New York. So the actual report rattled the normally staid Treasury market, pushing the 10-year yield down to 2.30 percent from 2.39 percent late Thursday. Comments from Janet Yellen, the Federal Reserve Chair, that implied the Fed was in no rush to raise interest rates helped press bond yields down.

health care exchanges as well as higher costs for prescription drugs. Humana's stock fell \$9.29 to \$130.58. First Solar also turned in third-quarter earnings and sales that missed analysts' targets. The maker of solar panels also pared its forecast for 2014 revenue, and its stock sank \$6.12, or 11 percent, to \$50.29.

Despite some misses, the third-quarter earnings season has turned out better than predicted. Profits are

Among other companies in the news, Sears Holdings soared following the retailer's announcement that it may form a real estate investment trust. The plan entails Sears selling up to 300 buildings then leasing them back. The store's stock shot up \$10.14, or 31 percent, to \$42.81.

In commodities trading, gold rose \$27.20 to settle at \$1,169.80 an ounce, while silver picked up 3 cents to \$15.71 an ounce.

Ford replacing European chief exec amid loss

COLLEEN BARRY
AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — U.S. carmaker Ford on Friday replaced its European boss amid widening regional losses and two years into a turnaround plan aimed at returning the division to profitability.

Ford's global marketing chief, Jim Farley, will take over as head of European operations, based in Cologne, Germany, switching roles with outgoing European chief executive, Stephen Odell, who was named to the marketing job, the automaker said in a statement.

Ford hasn't turned a pretax profit in Europe since 2010, the year Odell took over as the region plunged into a recession that provoked the region's biggest car market contraction ever. The carmaker is forecasting a \$1.2 billion loss in Europe for 2014, following widening third-quarter losses, and no longer is predicting a return to profit next year.

"Ford is struggling in Europe, but I don't think that struggle is unique to Ford," said IHS Automotive senior analyst Stephanie Brinley. She said the change in roles appears to have been aimed at redeploying the experienced executives, not dissatisfaction with Odell's performance. Ford has closed three plants and launched an ambitious schedule of product launches two years ago in a bid to return to profit and revive slumping sales. Ford's sales in Europe rose 7.3 percent over the first nine months of the year, outpacing the market. "Under Stephen's leadership, our European transformation plan is well under way, and we are poised to profitably grow as the region emerges from a long downturn," CEO Mark Fields said in a statement. Farley, 52, will be charged with leading Ford's turnaround in Europe, which includes a series of new product launches and cost cutting, Ford said.

Sears explores sale-leaseback deal of buildings

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears Holdings' stock skyrocketed in premarket trading after the struggling retailer said it's considering selling about 200 to 300 of its buildings to boost its liquidity.

The move would entail the company forming a real estate investment trust, or REIT, that would hold the stores. Sears would continue to operate in the stores by leasing them back. Sears said it would get "sub-

stantial proceeds" from the sale, and that shareholders would be given the option to buy shares of the REIT. Sears stock shot up more than 23 percent to \$40.20 in premarket trading.

Sears Holdings Corp., which runs Sears and Kmart stores, has been slashing costs and looking to raise cash to return to profitability. The company, which was once a staple of American shopping, is facing pressure

from nimbler rivals such as Wal-Mart Stores and Home Depot. It's also dealing with broader industry issues, including a slow economic recovery that's not benefiting all Americans equally and shoppers who are taking their dollars elsewhere. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday, Sears also said it expects third-quarter sales to dip 0.1 percent at established locations. An expect-

ed 0.7 percent decline at Sears offset a 0.5 percent increase at Kmart.

In August, the company reported its ninth straight quarterly loss as sales continued to slide. The company, based in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, is controlled by billionaire hedge fund investor Edward Lampert. Lampert combined Sears and Kmart in 2005 about two years after he helped bring Kmart out of bankruptcy protection.

Bank of America reserves \$400M for currency inquiry

**MICHAEL CORKERY
BEN PROTESS**

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Bank of America is nearing a deal with federal regulators to settle an investigation into the bank's suspected manipulation of the currency market, the latest sign that Wall Street is bracing for another crack-down on its misbehavior. Bank of America disclosed the development this week in a news release, saying

that it had increased its legal costs to deal with the currency market investigation. Although the bank did not name the regulators, people briefed on the investigation identified the agencies as the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve.

In the news release, Bank of America said it recently had "advanced discussions" with the regulators

about a potential settlement, forcing the bank to increase its legal reserves to pay for the expected fine. A settlement is not final, the people briefed on the matter said.

The increased legal bill resulted in a \$400 million charge that cut into the earnings that Bank of America reported for the third quarter a few weeks ago. The charge resulted in the bank reporting a loss

of \$232 million, or 4 cents a share, in the quarter.

Bank of America becomes the latest bank ensnared in the foreign exchange investigation to retroactively increase its expected legal costs - and lower its earnings - after reporting third-quarter results last month. The costs came into focus between when the bank reported earnings on Oct. 15 and Thursday, when it filed its official

quarterly report with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Last week, Citigroup announced that it had to lower its profit by \$600 million to deal with the foreign currency investigation. Earlier this week, JPMorgan Chase said its litigation expenses in the third quarter, including those related to the foreign exchange investigation, totaled about \$1.1 billion. □

Jana backs Dollar Thrifty's former chief to lead Hertz

**MICHAEL J. de la MERCED
© 2014 New York Times**

Jana Partners has already disclosed it is one of the biggest shareholders in Hertz Global Holdings. Now it's urging the rental car service to pick its preferred candidate for the company's chief executive spot. The activist hedge fund urged Hertz in a letter this week to pick Scott Thompson, the former head of the Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, a rival rental car provider that Hertz bought for \$2.3 billion two years ago. Jana owns a roughly 7 percent stake.

Hertz has been looking for a new chief since the resignation of Mark P. Frissora in early September, under pressure from investors. In an acknowledgment that the company was suing for peace with unhappy shareholders, it gave Carl C. Icahn, its biggest investor, the right to pick three directors for its board.

Yet it appears Jana isn't happy with unresolved issues at the rental car company, notably the absence

of a permanent leader. In its letter, the hedge fund argued that Thompson was the right person for that position, even if he was the man whom investors and analysts believe

efforts to deliver maximum value for his shareholders at Dollar Thrifty can be seen as anything other than an overwhelming positive; this quality is in fact exactly what Hertz shareholders

believe Thompson has been campaigning for the position - a Bloomberg News article from August probably didn't help - the hedge fund approached him about the position

But it's time to pick a new leader, the firm added. And absent a better choice, the job should go to Thompson.

"It is possible that the board has identified a candidate who satisfies the criteria we have laid out even more fully than Mr. Thompson," Rosenstein wrote. "If so, the board should appoint that person now. If not, it is time to appoint Mr. Thompson immediately."

Hertz said in a statement: "We are aware of JANA's filing, members of the Hertz board have been in dialogue with them, and we appreciate their views as we do for all of Hertz shareholders. Selecting a permanent CEO is a top priority, and the board will take the time needed to identify the best candidate. The search process is being led by the board's search committee, which consists of five independent directors, including two recently appointed independent directors, with the assistance of an executive search firm. □



A customer checks in at a Hertz car rental counter at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta. Jana Partners is urging Hertz Global Holdings to pick its preferred candidate for the company's chief executive spot. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

successfully induced Hertz into overpaying for Dollar Thrifty.

"We fail to see, however, how Mr. Thompson's determined and successful

want in a new CEO," Barry Rosenstein, the hedge fund's managing partner, wrote.

The activist investor added that though Hertz may

rather than the other way around.

The hedge fund acknowledged it had not met with all the potential candidates for the chief execu-

Low oil prices slam rig demand at Transocean

The Associated Press

(AP) - In a sign lower oil prices are starting to take their toll on the industry, offshore rig owner Transocean announced it would take charges totaling more than \$2.7 billion because demand for its rigs is falling. Transocean said the charges forced it to delay its third-quarter earnings report scheduled for Friday. Companies that explore for

and produce oil are dialing back investment because of sharp declines in the price of oil, which is reducing rig demand and lowering rates for Transocean's rigs. Brent crude, the most common benchmark for global oil, has fallen 28 percent since late June. Friday it traded near \$84 a barrel, not far from its lowest level in four years.

Judson Bailey, an analyst

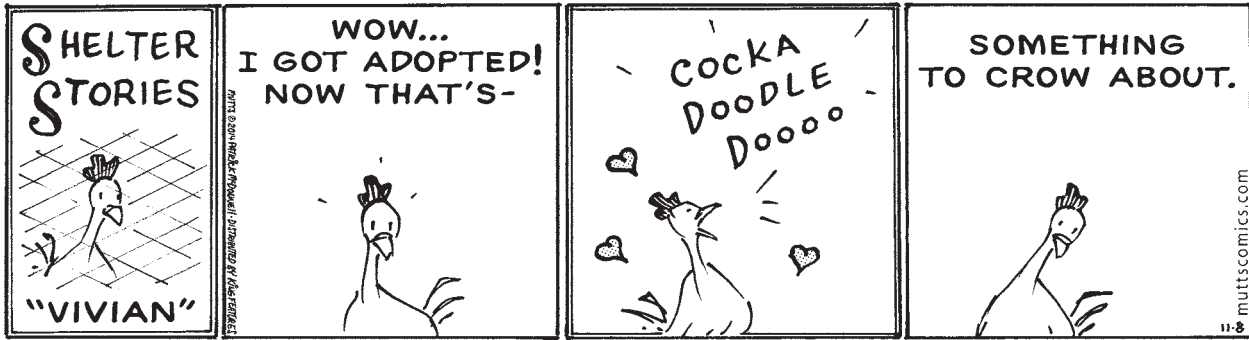
at Wells Fargo Securities, wrote in a report that Transocean's charges should serve to alert investors to the deteriorating market for oil rigs, which "will only be made worse if Brent prices remain in the low-\$80s." Transocean said Friday that it expects results from the quarter to include a non-cash charge of nearly \$2 billion tied to the decline in the market

valuation of its contract drilling business. It also anticipates a \$788 million impairment of its Deepwater Rig asset group. The company said it was delaying its earnings report due to the "complexities involved in determining these impairments." Transocean Ltd. provides offshore contract drilling for oil and gas wells. BP leased from Transocean the Deepwater Ho-

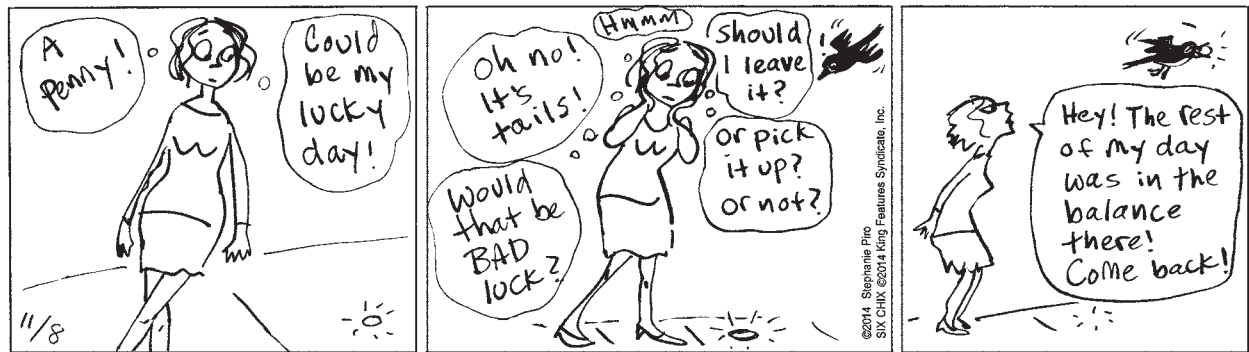
rizon drilling rig that exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, an accident that killed 11 workers and spawned the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

U.S.-traded shares of the Swiss company fell 43 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$29.49 in late morning trading, while broader indexes were flat. The company's shares have fallen 36 percent since late June. □

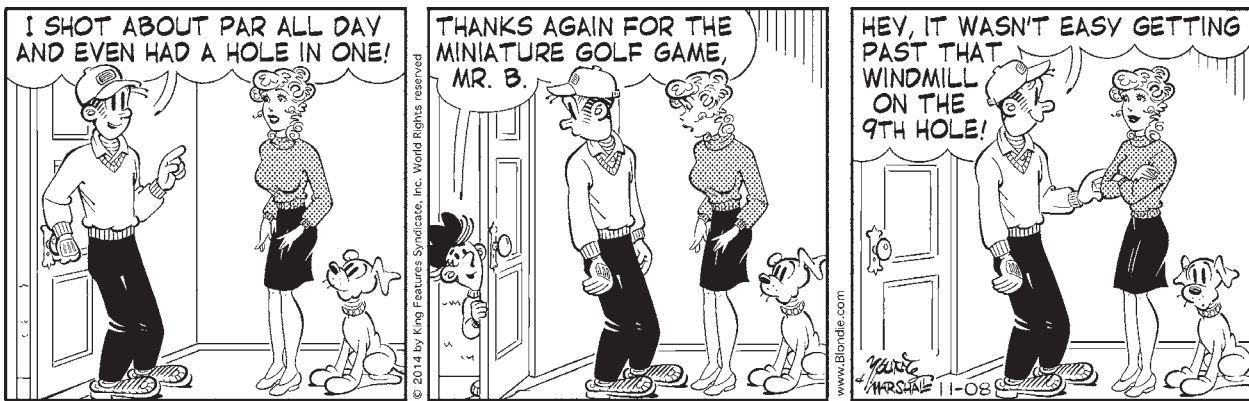
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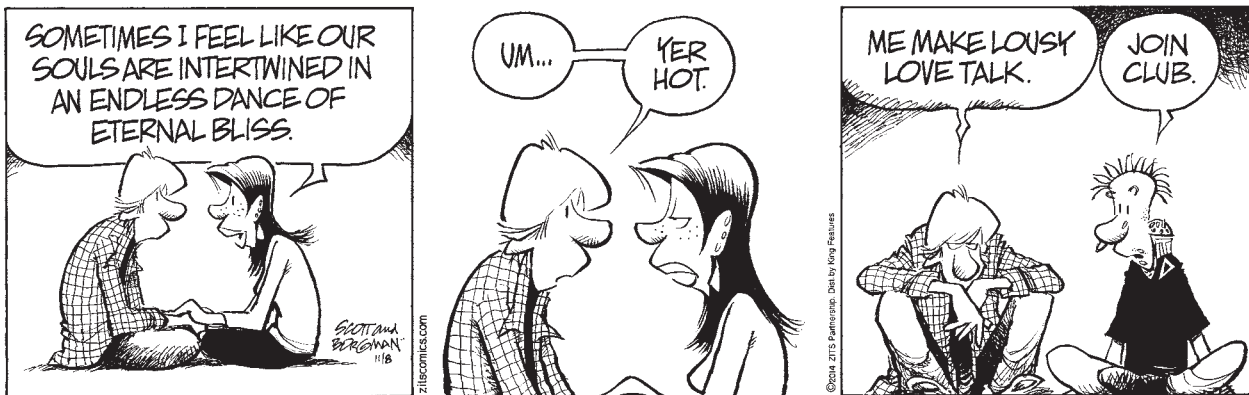
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7	5							
		2			7	4		3
								1
	4	1	6		9			2
	9						7	
8			5	2	9	1		
1								
5		3	8				2	
							6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/08

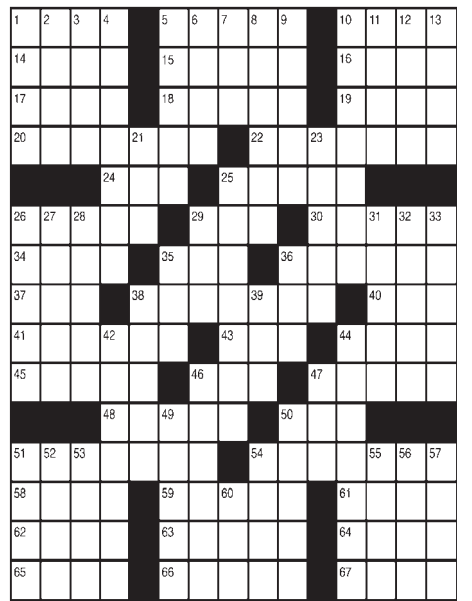
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	9	7	1	3	8	5	6
7	1	6	8	5	9	4	3	2
5	8	3	2	4	6	1	9	7
1	9	4	5	6	8	2	7	3
2	3	5	1	7	4	6	8	9
8	6	7	9	3	2	5	1	4
6	7	2	3	8	1	9	4	5
3	4	8	6	9	5	7	2	1
9	5	1	4	2	7	3	6	8

ACROSS

- Not up yet
- from; besides
- Basics; fundamentals
- Bumpkin
- Of the moon
- in on; visit
- Unruly crowds
- Agassi of tennis
- Skimpy skirt
- Circulatory and respiratory
- Most uncanny
- Wedding words
- Birch tree with catkins
- Makes, as a salary
- Weep
- African nation
- Diagnostic negative
- Baby's eating accessory
- Ill will
- Church seat
- Will add-on
- Morning grass blade moisture
- Red blood cell deficiency
- Money sent to Uncle Sam
- Warmth
- Fortune-teller's deck of cards
- Singer Tormé
- Helsinki folks
- Happen again
- White lie
- One who pays another's costs
- Animal with a long neck
- Cab
- Forest home
- Abel's brother
- Not closed
- Oyl of cartoons
- Female red deer
- Sharp pain
- Fall flower
- Annoys



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/8/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

DUD	SIGHS	CRAB
ONES	CROOK	LUTE
TILL	RABBI	ODOR
VIOLATION	SEPT	
POPE	DDE	
SPRIGS	PLEASURE	
PRUNE	PRIED	SIN
RING	CHIMP	FUND
AMI	VOICE	LEASE
TENTACLE	MISLED	
INK	MUST	
CHIC	ASSISTING	
YANK	THANK	VEAL
SITE	OUNCE	ERGO
TROD	ONSET	DAB

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11/8/14

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 38 Refers to | 50 Not as coarse |
| 39 Baseball's Ripken, Jr. | 51 Go no further |
| 42 Rising time, for most | 52 Daddy |
| 44 Small barbecue | 53 Plow animals |
| 46 Wall paintings | 54 up; quit |
| 47 Evergreen tree | 55 Evenhanded |
| 49 Warm drink | 56 Tattletale |
| | 57 Finales |
| | 60 In a ; soon |

AI Threat

Continued from Page 23

What makes them think they can manage armies of quasi-intelligent robots?

I'm not alone in my fear. Silicon Valley's resident futurist, Elon Musk, recently said artificial intelligence is "potentially more dangerous than nukes." And Stephen Hawking, one of the smartest people on earth, wrote that successful AI "would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last." There is a long list of computer experts and science fiction writers also fearful of a rogue robot-infested future.

Two main problems with artificial intelligence lead people like Musk and Hawking to worry. The first, more near-future fear, is that we are starting to create machines that can make decisions like humans, but these machines don't have morality and likely never will.

The second, which is a longer way off, is that once we build systems that are

as intelligent as humans, these intelligent machines will be able to build smarter machines, often referred to as superintelligence. That, experts say, is when things could really spiral out of control as the rate of growth and expansion of machines would increase exponentially. We can't build safeguards into something that we haven't built ourselves.

"We humans steer the future not because we're the strongest beings on the planet, or the fastest, but because we are the smartest," said James Barrat, author of "Our Final Invention: Artificial Intelligence and the End of the Human Era." "So when there is something smarter than us on the planet, it will rule over us on the planet." What makes it harder to comprehend is that we don't actually know what superintelligent machines will look or act like. "Can a submarine swim? Yes, but it doesn't swim like a fish," Barrat said. "Does an airplane fly? Yes, but not like a bird. Artificial intelligence won't be like us, but it will be the ultimate intellectual version of us."

Perhaps the scariest setting is how these technologies will be used by the military. It's not hard to imagine countries engaged in an arms race to build machines that can kill.

Bonnie Docherty, a lecturer on law at Harvard University and a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said that the race to build autonomous weapons with artificial intelligence - which is already underway - is reminiscent of the early days of the race to build nuclear weapons, and that treaties should be put in place now before we get to a point where machines are killing people on the battlefield.

"If this type of technology is not stopped now, it will lead to an arms race," said Docherty, who has written several reports on the dangers of killer robots. "If one state develops it, then another state will develop it. And machines that lack morality and mortally should not be given power to kill."

So how do we ensure that all these doomsday situations don't come to fruition? In some instances, we likely won't be able to stop them. But we can hinder some of the potential chaos by following the lead of Google. Earlier this year when the search-engine giant acquired DeepMind, a neuroscience-inspired, artificial intelligence company based in London, the two companies put together an artificial intelligence safety and ethics board that aims to ensure these technologies are developed safely. □

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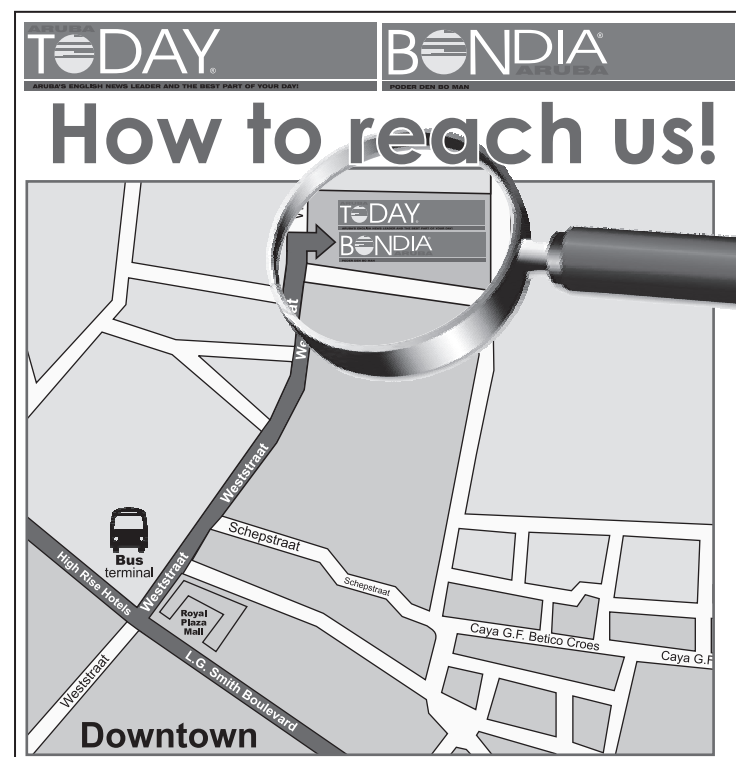
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DNA study:

Eurasian split from East Asians dated

BERLIN (AP) — The human populations now predominant in Eurasia and East Asia probably split between 36,200 and 45,000 years ago, according to a study released Thursday.

Researchers used new techniques to analyze genetic samples from the shin bone of a young man who died at least 36,200 years ago near Kostenki-Borshchevo in what is now western Russia. The study, published in the journal *Science*, concludes that Kostenki man shared genetic sequences with contemporary Europeans, but not East Asians.

A separate study published last month in the journal *Nature* determined that a 45,000-year old sample found in Siberia contained sequences ancestral to both modern East Asians and Europeans.

Taken together, these two studies suggest a time frame of about 9,000 years in which the two genetic populations could have diverged, said Eske Willerslev, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, one of the authors of the *Science* paper.

Even on its own the Kostenki sample challenges previous theories that modern Europeans emerged only when hunter-gatherers mixed with a farming popula-

Neolithic expansion from the Middle East," said Sarah Tishkoff, a professor of genetics at the University of Pennsylvania who wasn't involved in the latest study. "But



The 1954 photo provided by the Centre for GeoGenetics of the Natural History Museum of Denmark shows M.M. Gerasimov (on the right) with A.N. Rogachev (head of expedition on the left) excavating the fossil of Kostenki XIV in Kostenki-Borshchevo in what is now western Russia.

(AP Photo/Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography)

tion that moved in from the Middle East after Ice Age glaciers receded from Europe about 10,000 years ago, the start of a period known as the Neolithic.

"People had largely tended to think that Europeans today were mostly influenced by the

if they're correct they are suggesting that this person 36,000 years ago already had some similarity to the people who contributed to this Neolithic expansion from the Middle East."

Although Kostenki man — who had dark skin, brown eyes and was relatively short — belonged to a group of humans that ultimately died out, the DNA fragments he left are enough to draw a line in European genetic history going back at least 36,000 years, said evolutionary biologist Marta Mirazon Lahr of the University of Cambridge, another author of the *Science* study. □

Pilot's survival hailed as miracle, but not unique

**BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press**

MOJAVE, California (AP) — As the doomed flight rocketed past the speed of sound some 8 miles (13 kilometers) high and then shattered seconds later, the odds of survival were slim. Remarkably, as sections of the cockpit, fuselage, a wing and motor of the SpaceShipTwo rained down over the Mojave Desert in California and pieces of the lightweight craft tiny enough to travel 35 miles (56 kilometers) were picked up by the winds, a single parachute was seen in the sky.

Pilot Peter Siebold was alive and drifting to safety.

"It's no minor miracle that he did survive and survive in relatively good shape," Virgin Galactic chief executive George Whitesides said this week.

How Siebold, 43, survived the fall from extreme altitude while co-pilot Mike Alsbury, 39, perished a week ago is not yet clear, but Siebold is not the first to live through such a harrowing ordeal.

Bill Weaver has been telling a similar story for decades. The former Lockheed test pilot was torn from the seat of an SR-71 Blackbird at 78,800 feet (24,000 meters) above New Mexico on Jan. 25, 1966. The plane was going faster than 2,400 mph (3,900 kph) — more than triple the speed of sound.

As Weaver banked into a turn, a malfunction caused one engine to lose thrust. He quickly lost control of the jet and knew he was in trouble as the plane began to pitch and break up. He didn't have time to be scared. "I knew we were going to just be along for the ride," he said.

Weaver tried to radio to the reconnaissance and navigations officer in the back seat that there was no way to safely bail out at that altitude and speed, so they should stick with the plane and eject when it got lower. But the severe gravitational forces made his speech unintelligible and then he blacked out.

The whole event to that point took two to three seconds. When Weaver regained consciousness, his first thought was that he was dreaming. With the face plate on his helmet iced over from temperatures as cold as minus 55 Fahrenheit (-48.33 Celsius), he could only see a hazy white light and in a detached sense of euphoria, he thought he was dead. He was relieved when he realized he was alive and plunging toward Earth. "I had no idea how I got out of the airplane," he said. "I had no idea how long I had been free falling. Had no idea how high I was or low I was."

How Siebold got out of SpaceShipTwo is also unknown, according to National Transportation Safety Board Acting Chairman Christopher Hart, who said the pilot hadn't been interviewed because he's recovering from major injuries.

Initial findings show the Virgin Galactic plane designed to take tourists for \$250,000 joyrides beyond the edge of Earth's atmosphere, broke apart after the craft's re-entry braking system prematurely activated, Hart said. Alsbury had unlocked the system, known as the feathering system, earlier than called for. □

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Wonder mixes politics with music in tour kickoff

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stevie Wonder has always blended his musical genius with social activism, and as he launched his new tour, he stayed true to form, advocating gun control, pleading for an end to racism and advocating equality for those with disabilities.

"I challenge America, I

challenge the world, to let hatred go, to let racism go," Wonder told the sold-out audience at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. "That is the only way we will win as a nation and the world."

Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life" tour was dedicated to the music from that groundbreaking double album, which included clas-

sic hits like "Sir Duke," "I Wish," "As" and "Isn't She Lovely." A legendary album celebrated as much for its musicality as its message, the 1976 project won multiple Grammy Awards and further cemented Wonder's brilliance.

The music still resonates, as Wonder proved during an electrifying concert that ran for almost three hours

(including intermission) and had the audience roaring and standing on its feet in approval.

There were lighthearted moments, such as when Wonder confessed to a flub mid-song — "I forgot my own words," he said, laughing early on. He also dismissed recent reports that his partner is having triplets — it's just one baby. "I don't

know who started that bull," he said, eliciting laughter. He then brought his infant daughter, Zaiah, onstage for a performance of "Isn't She Lovely," which he wrote for daughter Aisha Morris — one of his background singers — years ago. Wonder was overcome with emotion at one point as he sang "Summer Soft," as tears streamed down his face. □

Leguizamo laughs last after being called 'Fugly'

SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He who laughs last laughs the best. And John Leguizamo, who was called "fugly" (beyond ugly) at school, makes use of the nickname that made him suffer in a new anti-romantic comedy that he stars in and co-wrote.

"When I was a teenager, I went to school and a girl told me 'fugly!' 'Look at Leguizamo, he is fugly!' Everyone started laughing. For a few months I was the Fugly of the class and it was horrible, then I swore I would have revenge," the 50-year-old Colombian-American actor said with a laugh.

In "Fugly!" which opens Friday before going to video on demand on Nov. 25, Leguizamo plays Jesse Sanchez, a nerdy kid who grew up in the shadow of his more attractive brother. He discovers a new world in college, where he becomes sort of a Don Juan, and debuts as an actor,



Actor John Leguizamo attends a special screening of "John Wick" in New York. Leguizamo stars in "Fugly!" which opens Friday, Nov. 7, before going to video on demand on Nov. 25.

(Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

getting the stereotypical Latino roles: the drug dealer, the rapist.

Radha Mitchell appears as Lara, Jesse's platonic love, and Rosie Perez plays as a sexy poet in search of a

man to launch her career. Although he's had a varied career, with credits that include "Romeo & Juliet," "Moulin Rouge!" and "Ice Age," Leguizamo said he only achieved film

success because of his acclaimed Broadway monologues "Freak" and "Sexaholix... A Love Story."

"That was my life!" Leguizamo said in a recent phone interview.

"At the beginning it was like that, exactly like Jesse at the beginning of his career. ... I played the role of the drug dealer or the gangster or the killer. That's why I started writing my plays, as an antidote to all that. And from there I had some success that helped me launch the career of my dreams," he said, recalling the role of Vinny in Spike Lee's "Summer of Sam" as one of the first in which he wasn't typecast. Leguizamo said "Fugly!" isn't an autobiographical film but a work of fiction that draws on many of his life experiences, including the monologues, with new ones written for the character of Jesse.

"That was what launched me and helped me be an artist and feel like a whole man, like an American, because I could say whatever I wanted in my own way," he said of his one-man shows. "In Hollywood it is a little hard to completely express yourself as you want to." □

Alda and Bergen 'a very good match' on Broadway

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alan Alda jumped aboard after getting past his doubts about the title. Candice Bergen joined him when she found out she'd be able to keep the script handy.

Both actors will take over Sunday as the star-crossed lovers in the Broadway production of A.R. Gurney's play "Love Letters." They replace Carol Burnett and Brian Dennehy.

Though friends for many years, the "M.A.S.H." and "Murphy Brown" stars have never worked together. And while mostly known for their TV work, both are seasoned stage vets. Alda has been in "Glengarry Glen Ross" and "Art" on Broadway, while his co-star has been in "Gore Vidal's The Best Man" and "Hurlyburly."

"I think we're a very good match because we're sort of these old TV warhorses," Bergen says. "I'd much

rather do it with someone who's a friend because the play is about friendship and life and putting one foot in front of the other."

The play is made up of letters, Christmas cards, birth announcements and notes between a woman and a man over decades, starting in 1937. We see their friendship and budding romance deepen, from birthday parties to high school dances and rare meetings.

The way it's presented

seems deceptively easy: The actors come out, sit down at a desk and begin reading aloud from binders for the next 90 minutes. They never stand and only glance at each other at the end.

"It gives the actors such a challenge, way more than you'd expect when you hear what the requirements are," says Alda, 78. "That's what's fun. That's what's fun about being in this field. The simplest things are the hardest ones to

do." Bergen, 68, agrees: "It's fascinating for an actor because you're so restricted. You can't use any of your normal expressive tools. You can't move, you can't look at the other actor, which is just huge to be deprived of."

Alda, who can be seen on "The Blacklist," almost didn't jump aboard. He'd never read the play or seen it performed and admits he had always been put off by its name. □

Victoria Gotti returns for 'Growing' retrospective

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It seems like only yesterday, or could it be a decade, since "Growing Up Gotti" was lending an ear to the fortissimo life of mobster daughter Victoria Gotti and her three boisterous lads.

Now A&E is bringing back the family for a one-hour retrospective, "Growing Up Gotti: 10 Years Later," inviting viewers to revisit the Gottis' Long Island manse for reminiscing and vintage clips from the series (which aired in 2004-05). The new special airs Monday at 9 p.m. EST.

Mom, now 51, is still the dolled-up matriarch while sons John and Carmine are all grown up and no longer so reliant on hair gel and swagger. (But domestic drama remains: Youngest son Frank, 24, blew off the retrospective taping, claiming illness, according to the network.)

"We laughed! Boy, did we laugh," Gotti tells The Associated Press, describing their collective reaction to those clips.

She still considers herself a writer by trade — she is a best-selling author and was a columnist for the New York Post — but her wayward career has also found her competing on "Celebrity Apprentice"

and starring in an off-Broadway musical.

Nonetheless, she spent life before "Growing Up Gotti" chiefly known as a daughter of John Gotti, the late "Dapper Don." So, a decade ago, she allowed cameras into her home

cally ill," she recalls. "The apprehension, the anxiety! I remember thinking, 'Just let it come out. One, maybe three episodes will air. It'll be a complete flop. Three people will tune in. Then we'll be done!'"

It didn't turn out that way,

it's one of the better decisions I've made, and I got to work with my kids. What better job for a working single mom?"

The series also fulfilled Gotti's goal of presenting herself not as the daughter of a legendary wiseguy, but

back, as reflected by her frequent reminder: "What you see is what you get."

But one thing you don't see suggested by her public persona: her professed preference for dressing down. She's no committed glamour-puss, she insists, despite at that moment being swathed in mink with her platinum tresses spilling nearly to her waist.

"THIS is not me. This is playing dress up," she declares. "When I'm home, I don't wear makeup and I lounge around in sweats." Long divorced, she was seen on "Growing Up Gotti" playing dress up to the max as she suffered through dates with insufferable men.

So how's her romantic life these days?

"Quiet. Very quiet," she says with a laugh. "You couldn't BELIEVE how quiet. But I think the right men are afraid. I hear it a lot: 'You're such high maintenance.' No, I'm really not! And I get the other end of that: 'You're too smart and savvy for me.' No, I'm really not!"

"I'm cool! I'm fun!" she proclaims. "But all the wrong guys hang around. So I'm usually home on Saturday night. My sons and their girlfriends are, too. We watch a movie, and there's Rocky Road (ice cream)."



Carmine Gotti Agnello, from left, Victoria Gotti, John Gotti Agnello and Frank Gotti Agnello attend a press conference for the film "Gotti: Three Generations," in New York. Victoria Gotti and her sons starred in the A&E reality series "Growing Up Gotti," a decade ago. Now the network is reuniting the cast for a one-hour retrospective, "Growing Up Gotti: 10 Years Later," airing Monday at 10 p.m. ET. (AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

in an effort to recast her identity.

But once the first round of filming was complete and the premiere date loomed, "I became physi-

of course, and when instead the series was an overnight hit, she asked herself, "NOW what?" What happened was, she sums up, "a blast! I think

as a liberated woman who was raised by a devoted dad: "He and my mother, they were great!" Victoria Gotti is a personality who doesn't hold

Lisa Kudrow surprised by 'The Comeback' comeback

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lisa Kudrow has no problem slipping in and out of her character Valerie Cherish when talking about the return HBO's "The Comeback". (The series follows Cherish, a washed up B-list actress desperate for fame and relevance who is filming a reality TV show).

The show aired for one season in 2004 before HBO opted to not bring it back for more episodes, with some critics saying it was ahead of its time — a concern shared by co-creator Michael Patrick King, Kudrow said.

"We were working on it and (King) went, 'What if we're too far ahead? That's not good.' I said, 'What are we gonna do about it now? There will be other seasons and then they'll catch up.'" When Kudrow found out HBO was interested in bringing back her comedy "The Comeback," she says she was as surprised as everyone else.

"A year ago? Never would have thought," said the actress in a recent interview. They decided to do six episodes and pick up nine years later because the idea of continuing as if no time had passed was

"ridiculous", she said. In the new season, Valer-

a reality show that she's going to present to Andy



Lisa Kudrow arrives at the LA Premiere Of "The Comeback" on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, in Los Angeles. (Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP)

ie has hired some USC students to shoot a pilot for

Cohen for Bravo. In the years that have passed,

she hasn't worked much, just guest-starred on a crime drama, participated in student films and starred in an infomercial for red hair dye.

Cherish is often humiliated and embarrassed by people around her who don't take her seriously. Kudrow says some people are taking that way too personally.

"I was like, 'I don't know why you're taking it so hard. She was OK. Didn't you see she was OK? This is a person in denial. It's a wonderful tool," she laughed.

"The Comeback" returns Sunday on HBO at 10 p.m. EDT/PDT.

America's Broken Politics



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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Let's face it: The American political system is broken.

The midterm elections were a stinging repudiation of President Barack Obama, but Republicans should also feel chastened: A poll last year found Congress less popular than cockroaches.

So congratulations to those members celebrating election victories. But our democratic institutions are in trouble when they can't outpoll cockroaches. Which didn't even campaign.

"Politics is the noblest of professions," President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in 1954, and politics in the past often seemed a bright path toward improving our country. President Bill Clinton represented a generation that regarded politics as a tool to craft a better world, and Obama himself mobilized young voters with his gauzy message of hope. He presented himself as the politician who could break Washington's gridlock and get things done - and we've seen how well that worked.

I'm in the middle of a book tour now, visiting universities and hearing students speak about yearning to make a difference. But they are turning not to politics as their lever but to social enterprise, to nonprofits, to advocacy, to business. They see that Wendy Kopp, who founded Teach for America in her dorm room at Princeton University, has had more impact on the education system than any current senator, and many have given up on political paths to change.

A national exit poll conducted by Edison Research found that a majority of voters disapproved of Republicans and Democrats alike, and only 20 percent trust Washington to do what's right most or all the time.

Obama is licking his wounds in the White House, and he doesn't seem to accept that the election is a judgment on his presidency. I'm sorry. When Democrats lose in Colorado and struggle in Virginia, when voters say they're sending a message to the White House, it's time for Obama to shake up his staff, reach out beyond his insular circle of longtime aides, and recalibrate.

Critics are right that the president should try harder to schmooze with legislators, although I'm skeptical that Republicans are that charmable. After all, some

polls have shown more than a third in the Republican Party said he was born abroad and about one-fifth suspected that he could be the Antichrist.

Yet it's not just Obama who is looking ragged today. The entire political system is. Political scientists Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal have charted the attitudes of the political parties back to 1879, and they found party polarization in recent years to be greater than at any time since their charts began.

That's partly because Democrats have become more liberal, but mostly because Republicans have become more conservative - indeed, more conservative than at any time since 1879.

Politicians have also figured out what works for their own careers: playing to their base, denouncing the other side, and blocking rivals from getting credit for anything. Since many politicians are more vulnerable in a primary than in a general election, there's not much incentive for compromise. After Obama took office, Republicans assiduously tried to block him, even shutting down the federal government. Republican governors prevented their own citizens from getting health insurance through federally financed Medicaid. I see that as obstructionism, but it paid off in these midterms.

Bravo to Obama's comments Wednesday about trying to cooperate with Republicans on issues including early education. But I'm not holding my breath. Incentives today militate against bipartisan cooperation, and that's one reason the current Congress is on track to be the least productive in the post-World War II era. (Maybe we taxpayers could save money by paying members of Congress not by salary but by the piece, so much for each enacted law?)

One bright spot in the midterms was voter referendums. They did actually break the gridlock. Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia legalized marijuana in some situations. Five states supported an increase in the minimum wage. Washington state approved universal background checks for gun purchases. California reduced prison sentences. So even if politicians are stalemated, voters managed to get things done. Yet we also get the national government we deserve, and that's an indictment of all of us. I find America's political dysfunction particularly sad because I've spent much of my journalistic career covering people risking their lives for democracy, and sometimes dying for it - from Taiwan to Ukraine, Congo to South Korea. It was 25 years ago that I saw people massacred near Tiananmen Square for demanding political change. They risked their lives because they dreamed that democracy would improve their lives and give them greater freedom and dignity.

For those of us in the United States it was easy. We painlessly inherited democracy, yet I'm afraid we've botched it. □



Campaign 101: Death by Data



DAVID BROOKS
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Over the past decade or so, political campaigns have become more scientific. Campaign consultants use sophisticated data to micro-target specific demographic slices. Consultants select their ad buys more precisely because they know which political niche is watching which TV show. Campaigns trial test messages that push psychological buttons. Discussion around politics has also become more data driven. Opinion writers look at demographic trends and argue over whether there is an emerging Democratic majority. Pundits like me study the polling cross tabs, trying to figure out which way Asian-Americans are trending here and high-school-educated white women are trending there. Unfortunately, the whole thing has been a fiasco. As politics has gotten more scientific, the campaigns have gotten worse, especially for the candidates who overrely on these techniques. That's because the data-driven style of politics is built on a questionable philosophy and a set of dubious assumptions. Data-driven politics is built on a philosophy you might call impersonalism. This is the belief that what matters in politics is the reaction of populations and not the idiosyncratic judgment, moral character or creativity of individuals. Data-driven politics assumes that demography is destiny, that the electorate is not best seen as a

group of freethinking citizens but as a collection of demographic slices. This method assumes that mobilization is more important than persuasion; that it is more important to target your likely supporters than to try to reframe debates or persuade the whole country.

This method puts the spotlight on the reactions of voting blocs and takes the spotlight off the individual qualities of candidates. It puts the spotlight on messaging and takes the spotlight off product: actual policies. It puts the spotlight on slight differences across the socio-economic spectrum and takes the spotlight off the power of events to reframe the whole mood and landscape. This analytic method encourages candidates across the country to embrace the same tested, cookie-cutter messages.

Candidates who have overrelied on these techniques have been hurt by them. One victim was Mitt Romney, who ran for president not as himself, but as a thin slice of himself. Another victim was President Barack Obama. His 2012 campaign was legendary from an analytic point of view, and, of course, it was victorious. But it lacked a policy agenda and produced no mandate. Without a compelling agenda, the administration has projected an image of reactive drift and lost public confidence.

This year, the most notorious victim of demographic politics is Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado. He's tried to win the female votes as if all women cared about were "women's" issues. The Denver Post's editorial board wrote that he's run an "obnoxious one-issue campaign," which is in a dead heat.

The other victims include the Democratic senators in red states. Winning in a state that the other party dominates is a personal enterprise. It requires an ineffable individual connection with voters. It requires an idiosyncratic approach to issues. By eclipsing individual quirks with generic messages, the data-driven style deprives outnumbered candidates

of precisely what they need to survive. Alison Lundergan Grimes, a Democrat, could have made a real run at Sen. Mitch McConnell in Kentucky if she'd been a little more creative.

Of course, data sets are important. Obviously demography matters a lot. But, at heart, politics is a personal enterprise. Voters are looking for quality of leadership, character, vision and solidarity that defies quantification. Candidates like Daniel Patrick Moynihan or Jerry Brown can arouse great loyalty in ways that are impossible to predict.

In the midst of this scuffling economy, voters are thinking as Americans and not as members of a niche. They're asking: What can be done to kick-start America? They're not asking: How can I guarantee affordable contraception? People who are building campaigns on microtargeting are simply operating on the wrong level of consciousness.

The more you look at political history, the more you see that political imagination is the rarest and most valuable of qualities. Voters don't always know what they want, but they look to leaders to jump ahead of the current moment and provide visions they haven't thought of.

Some politicians, like FDR or Ronald Reagan, can reframe debates and envision coalitions that don't exist. Their visions emerge out of unique life experiences, which are unusual but have broad appeal. They build trust not through a few targeted messages but by fully embodying a moment and a people. They often don't pander to existing identities but arouse different identities.

Today we have a lot of technical innovation, but not a lot of political creativity. The ecosystem no longer produces as much entrepreneurship - mutations that fuel evolution.

Data-driven candidates sacrifice their own souls. Instead of being inner-directed leaders driven by their own beliefs, they become outer-directed pleasers driven by incomplete numbers. □

In Mississippi, Tailgating Goes Above and Beyond

JAMES K. GENTRY

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OXFORD, Miss. - Perhaps there isn't a word for the ritualized pregame revelry on the University of Mississippi campus. "Tailgating" certainly does not do it justice. It might be a gathering of football fans before a game, but it hardly re-

sembles those celebrated scenes in Green Bay and Kansas City, which are modest by comparison. For one, there are the \$71,000 portable toilets. And then there's this fall's \$750,000 university budget for the quintessentially Southern marvel known as the Grove. The price tags, and the orchestration, just keep getting grander. "We want to put on the dog here," one fan said, using regional vernacular for "over the top."



University of Mississippi fans cheer on their team during a day of tailgating for a home football game against Alabama, in Oxford, Miss., Oct. 4, 2014. The word "tailgating" hardly does justice to the immense parties thrown on the Grove, ten wooded acres in the heart of campus where fur coats and food on silver trays abound on game days.

(William DeShazer/The New York Times)

The Grove is 10 acres of mature oak and maple trees in the center of campus. For years, fans drove into the grove to share food and drink before games. Then, in 1991, the rules were changed to prohibit ve-

hicles. Soon, fans started walking into the area with their provisions instead, establishing the roots of the scene we see today. The university is deeply invested in this party, which can attract more than 100,000 of its most loyal supporters and curious visitors on any given week-

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